OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE
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CRACKDOWN ON STREET BOOZING

A MAJOR crackdown on street boozing and anti-social behaviour in Welshpool has been launched by the region's Police and Crime Commissioner.

Christopher Salmon said he had received dozens of complaints about people drinking on the town's streets and has vowed to do all he can to bring an end to the problem.

Mr Salmon met residents of the town during a surgery held at Powys County Council's Neuadd Maldwyn offices this week and said afterwards that anti-social behaviour had been a common complaint. He said: "I am very aware that one of the main concerns people in Welshpool have is anti-social behaviour and in particular drinking in the street.

by Graham Breeze

"My task is working with the chief constable to tackle this by freeing up officers from red tape that keeps them chained to the desk and instead get them out on the street engaging with the community and tackling the problem head on.

"I am working hard to do this and want to see patrols stepped up as a matter of urgency."

Mr Salmon added that the situation had improved in recent months, with only three calls received in July and none in August, but said the Neighbourhood Police Teams were working hard in the community to get the message across.

Patrols

He said: "High visibility patrols have been carried out in the town in known problem areas and bilingual signs have been erected to warn people."

He added that shop keepers have also been spoken to and people seen drinking have been spoken to by officers.

Mr Salmon, who was elected as commissioner for Dyfed-Powys Police in November, said he had enjoyed meeting residents and felt it was vital to find out how the police can work better in the town.

He said: "It is a pleasure being in Welshpool and the surgeries are absolutely vital for me to meet face to face with residents and find out the issues which really concern them.

"Rural policing matters and how the force can work better with outside organisations are two of the most regularly raised topics and people's concerns will be added to my 2013-2018 Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Plan.

"At my surgery I heard ideas and views on how communities can help us move forward. Key issues may include police accessibility and rural policing.

"This was people's chance to have their say and to tell me what they want from policing services.

"I'm listening and welcome all thoughts on key issues that affect our local communities."

Ironworks shut amid legal bid confusion

ATTEMPTS to save Oswestry's leading music venue have failed.

The Ironworks closed on Tuesday – but owners hope it will only be temporary.

Owners Steve and Roslynn Gore said they had to close after being baffled by apparently conflicting legal orders.

But the Gores have said they hope the closure will only be short while they decipher confusing legislation.

"It's very difficult to deal with because I don't really know about the legal stuff," Mr Gore admitted.

"Shropshire Council did designate the Ironworks as a building of community value under the Localism Act 2011, meaning we would have six months to raise money to buy out the bank.

"We withdrew the Ironworks from auction earlier this month – the sale would have been stopped anyway because of the act.

"We advised the bank and they have responded by serving notice on us under the Property Act 1925, which is a quick and easy way for the banks to get hold of mortgaged property."

Mr Gore said the two orders now meant that while the Ironworks could not be sold for six months, the bank could take out all of the contents and sell them.

Mr Gore said he will also be seeking further advice.

The Save The Ironworks campaign, launched at the start of August, is continuing despite the current closure.

Man denies rape charges

A MAN has denied two charges of raping a woman in an alleyway in Welshpool.

Mathew James, 27, of Llandinam, appeared at Mold Crown Court last Friday, where he denied the two charges relating to the early hours of July 21.

He was given conditional bail until his trial, which is expected to last two days, at the same court from March 10.

Public to get their say on pylon plans

A RAFT of public consultation events over controversial plans to link windfarms in Mid Wales to the national power supply in Shropshire have been announced by National Grid bosses.

The 33-mile 400 kv line will run from a substation near Cefn Coch, Llanfair Caereinion, and feature eight miles of underground cables through the Meifod Valley near Oswestry under plans announced by National Grid last week.

In other areas, National Grid is proposing overhead lines and will be considering the new T-pylon, which is about 15 metres shorter than traditional steel lattice pylons.

If the windfarms are giving planning permission when a continuing public inquiry ends, the line will run to the north of Llanfair Caereinion before being buried under the ground as it travels through the Meifod Valley.

It will emerge again close to Llansantffraid before turning west to cross the A483 trunk road between Four Crosses and Llanymynech on the Shropshire border.

National Grid is consulting until November 29 and say the events mean people can ask questions and pick up information for a number of days in each village.

There is also a project website at **www.nationalgrid.com/midwalesconnection**

Binmen show real heart

Binmen from Veolia handing over their donation. Back, from left, Eric Harvey, Darren Price, Nigel Rowley, Andy Rose and Dave Scott. Front, from left, Stephen Gardner, Mike Pritchard and Matthew Grimes. ***Picture: Peter Flemmich.***

OSWESTRY'S binmen this week joined The Chronicle's Keeping Oswestry Alive campaign with a £450 donation.

The Veolia employees announced they would be helping to fund one of the life saving defibrillators that The Chronicle plans to have based around the town.

The binmen have pooled their bonus money handed out by their employers to staff for meeting health and safety targets.

"I saw the campaign in The Chronicle and on Facebook and though it was a fantastic idea," said Dave Scott. "When I asked the rest of the team what they thought about us donating the money to the cause they were 100 per cent behind the idea." In association with the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and the West Midland Ambulance Service the Oswestry & Border Chronicle is appealing for help from readers and advertisers.

● Donations can be made at The Principality Building Society in Legg Street, Oswestry (account no: 144649-05) or at The Chronicle office at 14 Salop Road, Oswestry.

Start date for homes on site of old flats

WORK will begin on new homes on the site of the infamous Swan Lane flats in Oswestry in the new year.

The flats were at the centre of a major operation two years ago when police cracked down on use of the drug, GHB.

After the residents were rehoused, the flats were demolished earlier this year as part of a project between Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing and Shropshire Council to provide rented and affordable housing in and around the Oswestry area.

There will be 15 three-bedroomed and four two-bedroomed homes as well as a bungalow which has already been allocated for supported living.

As part of the Affordable Housing Programme, there will be another four homes at Sefton Place and Gatacre Avenue and two in Gate Street in Oswestry. A dozen will be allocated as affordable rental and seven for low cost ownership.

Shropshire Council has applied for permission to close one of the roads that ran through the complex.

Sue Adams, managing director of Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing, said: "The site is scheduled to commence in January.

"This will make a positive change for the better, for the lives of the tenants and for the surrounding area."

House fire woman ill

A WOMAN is in a serious condition in hospital after being rescued from a house fire by firefighters at Chirk in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Firefighters were called to the blaze at a bungalow on Lodgevale Park at 1.35am.

The woman suffered the effects of breathing in smoke and was taken to hospital.

Appliances from Chirk, Llangollen and Wrexham were sent to the bungalow.

A dog rescued from the property is in a serious condition.

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Entries boosted as sun shines on annual show

Ben Tidridge, nine, with his apples.

Olive Morris preparing her flowers for the show. *Pictures: Peter Flemmich.*

ENTRIES were up as the sun brought the crowds to Llanymynech Gardening Club's annual show on Saturday.

The annual horticultural, arts and craft event attracted over 250 entries at the Village Hall when judges commented on the high quality of exhibits.

"The warm and sunny day brought an increase in entries, which topped over 250," said show chairman Ernie Hardman.

Mention

"The judges remarked on the high quality of exhibits and the only disappointment was in the children's section which was very low this year. We hope to see an improvement next time," he added.

"I would like to thank each and everyone who worked so hard to make the show a success, committee and members with a special mention to the ladies of the Women's Institute who worked throughout the day, taking entries, selling raffle tickets and serving refreshments."

by Graham Breeze

Trophy winners were: Cut Flowers and Pot Plants, Mr & Mrs Bray Jones; Floral Art Cup, Mrs Olive Morris; Vegetables & Fruit Shield, Mr & Mrs Bray Jones; Cookery Cup, Mrs May Hillier; Arts & Crafts, Mrs June Gibson; Members Cup, Mrs Olive Morris; Children's Classes, Mabon McCluskey.

The overall cup for Most Points in Show went to Mr & Mrs Bray Jones with the Shropshire Star Cup for the Best Exhibit In Show going to Mrs June Gibson with an item of cross stitch.

The next meetig of the Gardening Club takes place on October 8 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm when the speaker will be Brian Goodwin, of the Shropshire Beekeepers Association.

The meeting is open to current members and visitors with refreshments being served. For more information call (01691) 656665, (01691) 831837 or (01938) 590508.

Treasurer Russell Robinson.

Pub to be converted into flats and house

A PUB near Oswestry which has been closed for the past 18 months is set to be converted into housing.

The Hart And Trumpet, next to Gobowen railway station in Station Road, shut in January 2012 and since then has been used as a private home.

Shropshire Council has now given planning permission to convert the building into four apartments and a house.

Land at the back of the pub has also been earmarked for homes, with outline planning permission granted for up to eight semi-detached houses

Under the plans, the pub will be split into a three bedroom house and four apartments.

But the history of the pub will be reflected in the names of the new accommodation, which will be called Hart House and Trumpet Apartments.

The plans have been drawn up by Littlemoors Developments.

Paul Jones, agent for Littlemoors, said although the building wasn't listed, the developers recognise that it is a local landmark.

"It is an important feature of the village and stands as a testament to the success of the railways in a different era," he said.

"The developer plans to retain the original appearance as much as possible. The design will be carefully undertaken to ensure that the houses are seen as an enhancement to the area."

Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council had expressed concern because of the number of homes planned for the development and its location next to the busy road and railway level crossing.

To address these concerns, Shropshire Council has asked the developer to submit detailed plans for the layout of access into the site.

NEWS

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The Ghost Train set to pull in at theatre

SPOOKY things will be going on at a theatre on the Shropshire-Mid Wales border when a ghost train pulls into town.

Tanat Theatre is preparing for Halloween with its latest show, The Ghost Train, by Arnold Ridley, who was best known for his role as Private Godfrey in Dad's Army.

Performances will take place on October 4, 5, 11 and 12 at the Green School Theatre, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant.

The play follows a group of train passengers who are stranded overnight at a station by a silly young man, played by Ben Vaughan.

The passengers meet the psychic station master, played by Bob Nightingale, who tells them the station is haunted by passengers who were killed in a crash some years before.

Other characters include a honeymooning couple and a spinster lady with a pet parrot.

The play has been filmed at least three times and contains some humour alongside the ghost stories.

All performances start at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children, and are available from The Paper Shop, the Post Office and Greatorex Stores in Llanrhaeadr, and also Upstairs Downstairs in Oswestry.

They can also be booked by telephone on (01691) 860497.

Group staging coffee morning

WELSHPOOL & District Visual Impairment Club will hold its annual coffee morning and visual impairment exhibition on October 4.

The event will be held at Welshpool Town Hall, Broad Street from 10am to 4pm and is free to attend.

£2m water works expected to solve sewage problems

by Sue Austin

A VILLAGE plagued by waste water and sewage flooding in heavy rain is to benefit from a £2 million improvement scheme. Welsh Water has started work in St Martins, near Oswestry, to create new underground storage for the sewage.

During heavy rainfall residents have complained that water and sewage has poured through their streets, gardens and even their homes.

The water company says the construction of a new underground storage tank on land close to Stan's Store should stop the problem.

New wastewater pipes will also be laid both on private land and on the main road close to the Cross Keys pub and Shropshire Council will carry out work to take surface water away from the waste water network.

The company says it will use special tunnelling techniques to avoid digging trenches wherever possible.

Residents have complained for several years about the problems, saying the combined waste water and sewerage drains had led to flooded roads and also to foul water backing up and flooding people's homes.

A water forum has been working with the water company and the council to find a solution.

Steven Earlam from Welsh Water said: 'We realise the distress internal wastewater flooding can cause and are committed to tackling it.

"Our investment project in St Martins reflects this and our goal to provide customers with a first class service.

"We recently held an information day in the village to share with people details of the scheme.

"It was encouraging to hear the positive feedback there was about our plans to tackle the flooding."

Claire Wilson, drainage technician at Shropshire Council, said: "The works are planned to cause as little disruption as possible."

Health chiefs will meet councillors over NHS changes

HEALTH chiefs from Shropshire will meet councillors in Welshpool to discuss possible changes to NHS services such as A&E.

Welshpool Town Council said a senior member of the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust will attend its meeting in October to explain to councillors in detail about an ongoing review of health services.

But last night the town council planned to discuss situation at its full council meeting.

Robert Robinson, town clerk, said: "The council requested at the last meeting for a senior member of the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust to meet with them so that a full understanding of the review can take place.

"The consultation is due to continue for approximately six months. Contact has been made with the trust and a senior member will be able to be in attendance at our October full council meeting on October 23."

Last week it was revealed that more than 10,000 people have signed a petition urging hospital bosses to keep A&E and stroke services at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

It is one of a number that have been set up in Shropshire, Telford and Mid Wales following comments by Peter Herring, chief executive of Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust.

He warned it would be "unrealistic" for both the Royal Shrewsbury and Princess Royal hospitals to continue delivering 24/7 specialist services, such as A&E and intensive care, in future.

The online petition was launched by Powys County Councillor Joy Jones, who is a member for Newtown and friend Vicky Ruff-Cock.

Bosses at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust have started a review of how urgent and emergency care will be delivered in future.

Delight at bloom host honour

Wales in Bloom delegates at St Mary's Church in Chirk. Back from left, chairman Jim Goodwin, and vice chairman John Woods. Front, committee member Peter Barton-Price and development officer Jennie Judd. *Picture: Peter Flemmich.*

VOLUNTEERS at Chirk said they were delighted to have hosted this year's Wales in Bloom ceremony.

The celebration, normally held in larger towns, was staged at Chirk Parish Hall at the invitation of Wales in Bloom bosses.

More than 120 delegates from all over Wales attended the celebration last Friday.

They also had a chance to take a look around Chirk Castle gardens and this weekend's flower festival at St Mary's Church.

Jackie Allen, chairman of Chirk Community Forum, said the invitation to host the event was a huge privilege for the town. She said: "It was really a bit of a coup and it has taken a lot of hard work to get here.

"It all started seven years ago when members of the forum said they were fed up with things like dog fouling, graffiti and littering in Chirk. The Wales in Bloom competition seemed a great opportunity to tidy up the town and put pride in it."

The town won a sliver gilt award in the first year it entered with further awards following and the town has twice to represent Wales in the national awards.

Grant of £1,000 is given to the arts

OSWESTRY Town Council has given a grant of £1,000 to the Oswestry and District Arts Association, to support local arts groups and organisations.

The long established association deals each year with applications for funding from local groups, organisations and societies.

The grant is just one of the ways that the council helps the arts.

In addition it provides many events for the town including summer band concerts in Cae Glas Park, Christmas Music Live, Youth Music Festival and various markets that incorporate music and performance.

Town Mayor Councillor Chris Schofield said: "We are pleased to continue this important funding of local talent, events and activities.

"We have enjoyed a long and successful partnership with the Arts Association that does so much to support and encourage the local community to perform and arrange events."

Council praised for promotion

A TOWN council has been praised by a Welsh Assembly member for its work in promoting the town.

William Powell, AM for Mid & West Wales, said he had visited Welshpool Town Council's offices to meet the mayor, Councillor John Meredith and town clerk Robert Robinson.

He said: "I am sure other town and community councils across Wales can gain a lot from studying their approach. Welshpool continues to be the gateway to Montgomeryshire and Mid Wales – as such it is essential that the voice of their town council is heard."

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People watch the archery at the Chirk Castle. *Picture: Peter Flemmich.*

Castle history brought to life

SEVEN centuries of history at a castle were brought back to life as staff threw open the doors to the public.

About 2,000 people visited Chirk Castle at the weekend to discover what life was like when the iconic estate was first built.

Young and old were given the chance to join the castle's garrison and train as medieval soldiers.

Rachel Coman, learning and interpretation officer at Chirk Castle, said: "We have had an absolutely wonderful weekend. We had about 1,000 people come on both days with Sunday slightly busier than the Saturday. People got involved in spear practice in the courtyard and also in archery demonstrations outside the castle.

"There was also lots of living history and food demonstrations. It really has been brilliant."

Ms Coman said sunny weather helped add to the day. She said: "The weather was amazing, it really felt like the summer had been revived.

"We were ever so busy which is great because when the weather is so good you worry people might pop to the beach instead."

Parents attack dismissal of day centre closure protest

DOZENS of people who packed a council meeting to protest at the closure of adult day care centres have been dismissed as not "significant or representative" by the man who made the decision.

by David Burrows

Councillor Tim Barker said he did not believe carers and service users who attended a meeting which scrutinised his decision held the same views as the majority of families who use adult day services.

His comments were have been attacked by those who had been at the meeting.

Councillor Barker was solely responsible for the decision to close two day care centres in Shrewsbury and another two in Oswestry once a replacement has been found.

The future of other centres is under review.

Parent John Miles, whose son Simon, 46, and daughter Claire, 41, both use the service in Church Stretton, said: "As a carer of a son and daughter with learning disabilities, who are affected by day centre closures, I attended the scrutiny committee meeting.

"As there were around 80 carers and their supporters present I fail to understand how Councillor Barker regards this as being insignificant or unrepresentative." Mr Miles called for Councillor Barker to publish details in the media of all consultations which had taken place regarding day centre closures.

Councillor Barker, the portfolio holder for adult services, made his comments in a written response to Councillor Mansel Williams, which has been submitted to a meeting of the full council.

Distress

Councillor Williams asked: "Having attended the recent health scrutiny committee that considered Councillor Barker's decision to close two day centres for adults with learning difficulties and having witnessed the distress of carers who all spoke of their lack of knowledge of plans to close the day centre where their family member attended, would Councillor Barker agree that the consultations that had been undertaken in the lead up to his decisions were flawed?

"If Councillor Barker believes the consultations were not flawed, could he explain how large number of carers who attended the scrutiny meeting were so ill-informed about such a fundamental fact?"

In his response, Councillor Barker said that he did not believe the process was flawed.

He added: "I also do not accept that the numbers of people who attended the scrutiny meeting were significant or representative of the majority of families whose relatives attend day services."

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NEWS

Man, 35, admits threatening to slash throats of couple

A MAN who told a couple walking home from a wedding reception he would burn down their house and slash their throats has admitted making threats.

Mark John Price, 35, of Woolston Bank Cottages, Oswestry, also admitted resisting arrest when he appeared at Telford Magistrates Court on Monday.

He made the threats to Anne Marie Griffiths and Richard Harris who were making their way home from the Wynnstay Hotel in Church Street, Oswestry.

by Jennifer Meierhans

Miss Griffiths, who went to school with Price, recognised him when he and his brother Chris Price approached her and her partner just after 11.30pm last Saturday.

Mrs Kate Price, prosecuting, said the brothers began arguing with Mr Harris near to Sports Direct in Cross Street.

She said: "Mark Price shouted I will burn your house down. He reached into his pocket and said I've got a knife, I will slash your throat."

A statement from Miss Griffiths said: "A car stopped and Mark and Chris got into the car but Mark got out again and ran at us. It really worried me and I am worried for my family."

Police attended to arrest Mark Price but he refused to move.

Miss Price said: "He grabbed on to the sergeant's baton and only calmed down when CS gas was used."

She said Price had previous convictions for drug offences and failing to surrender to custody.

Mr Steven Scully, for Price, said his client should be given credit for making an early guilty plea.

"This wasn't an occasion where he went out looking for trouble," he said.

He added: "Whilst under the influence of various things he made some silly throw away comments."

Magistrates bailed Price to return to Shrewsbury Crown Court on October 15.

History centre plan is revealed for workhouse

PLANS have been revealed for a new history centre and reception area at Llanfyllin's historic Victorian workhouse.

The proposals for the listed building have been lodged by Llanfyllin Dolydd Building Preservation Trust, a group of volunteers who have been working to create a community, arts and tourism centre.

Papers lodged with Powys County Council outline the plans for the building. They include a visitor reception area in one of the rooms at the workhouse, featuring display panels providing an introduction to its history .

The work would see the threshold at the building's entrance lowered to allow wheelchair access.

Powys County Council is expected to make a decision later this year.

Orthopaedic's fundraiser

CONSULTANTS at the Orthopaedic Hospital near Oswestry proved they had another string to their bow, literally, when they took part in a concert to raise funds to build a centre for patients with bone cancer.

The Bone Cancer Appeal Concert on Friday was a sellout with more than 150 guests and performers enjoying entertainment concluding with some rousing Welsh and English folk songs by a Welsh Voice Choir, reminiscent of the last night of the proms.

Volunteers turned the foyer at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital into a concert hall with over £2,000 raised as a result for the £500,000 Bone Cancer Appeal.

The concert organiser was consultant physician Dr Mark Garton, who played the cello. Consultant orthopaedic surgeon Mr Stephen Phillips gave heartfelt poetry recitals in both English and Welsh.

Dr Garton said: "The setting was the foyer of the main entrance, with a grand piano in the window area, which looked stunning with the striking blue lighting of the external entrance, shining as darkness fell."

Guest musicians included: tenor, Thomas Morss from the Royal Northern College of Music; baritone, Michael Joby and pianist Christopher Symons.

A varied programme included The Great War poetry of Butterworth, musical arrangements by Vaughan Williams and a piano quintet from Elgar as well as folk songs by the 14 member Welsh Voice Choir.

Dr Mark Garton said: "The evening went without a hitch and people said it was a great success."

The appeal concert.

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Hundreds gather to enjoy final show of the summer season

Phoebe Miller has her face painted by Laura Wygold.

The dog show.

Crowds enjoying Leighton Show. *Pictures: Peter Flemmich.*

Sarah Evans from Leighton Playgroup.

Six-year-old Thomas McGurn having fun at Leighton Show.

HUNDREDS of people enjoyed beautiful weather at the final village show of the summer season.

Show-goers from across the area flocked to Leighton Village Show, near Welshpool, on Saturday, with competitions, vintage tractors, a fell and fun run, a nature trail and the ever popular dog show drawing the crowds.

Organisers said they were delighted with how the show went, with the show field basking in sunshine for most of the day. Jane Walton, one of the organisers, said: "The marquees were erected, cups and tractors polished and the many show entries listed and it all went brilliantly.

by Graham Breeze

"The weather was really very kind to us and being in late September we were very grateful to see the sun shining down on us and hundreds of people turned up to support the event.

"The day included a fell and fun run, a nature trail through Leighton Estate and Woods and the very popular dog show. Along with all the produce and craft entries, children's sports were run by Leighton School, there were vintage vehicles, bowling, laser shooting, a climbing wall and bouncy castles.

"For those wanting to show off their traditional country skills, there was tractor reversing and bale tossing and much more besides, meanwhile the popular vintage tea tent kept everyone happy through the afternoon with a variety of stalls to peruse.

"The celebrations continued through to the evening with a hog roast and lots more."

One of the highlights of the show each year is the popular dog show, which runs alongside the main event.

Elaine Day, dog show organiser, said: "The companion dog show had 19 classes in total, all with rosettes to fifth place.

"There was five classes for pedigree dogs and 14 novelty classes including farmer's friend, rabbiting rascals, child's best friend, best trick, best pair, dog most like its owner and some others."

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NEWS

01691 668094

650 varied lots under the hammer at old county farm

Jamie and Janet Ward look at some vintage bikes.

by Joseph Masi

ABOUT 2,000 people turned out to view and bid on a diverse collection of vintage vehicles and machinery which went under the hammer at a farm near Oswestry on Saturday.

The visitors browsed 650 different lots at The Brow Golf Club in Welsh Frankton, near Ellesmere, which used to be Brow Farm until the mid 1990s.

The farm was run by former blacksmith Alf Strange and his wife Vera, who ran a working smithy and farming museum until Mr Strange's death in 2000.

Mrs Strange died in April last year and the golf club is now run by the couple's son Alan who described his father as "a great hoarder."

Items that went under the hammer included a collection of large dolls' houses, a vintage motorbike, horse-drawn ploughs, a complete blacksmithing forge, and a large bath taken from a squire's house.

The items were spread out across the golf course green, in barns and sheds, and in the yard near to the clubhouse.

Auctioneer Allen Gittins took more than eight hours to work his way through the lists, with bidding on some items of farm machinery fiercely contested.

Alan Strange described the day as "hugely successful."

He said: "The day went very well indeed. In the region of 2,000 people attended with some travelling from as far as Cornwall and Scotland – from one extreme to the other.

"It was a very busy day but all the lots were received well and they achieved good prices. It was also nice because we had really good weather which really added to the occasion."

Mr Strange said the star item was his father's Morris 8 Vintage Tourer which sold for £7,800. The vehicle was very popular and received a lot of interest," he said. "It really is a beautiful car and a lot of people showed an interest.

"The star novelty item was a 100-year-old mousetrap which went for £230 which is astonishing really seeing as though it's just a small block of wood but it was very sought after.

"The bidding was also competitive on the tractors with the Bristol Crawler, which is like a mini JCB, achieving £1,350. It was a very old track machine and fetched a lot more than we thought it would.

"But in general there was active bidding on all the items and the prices were good."

Mr Strange said he was shocked at the turnout.

"We estimated 500 people would come but with the internet word spreads so quickly," he said.

Zara and Ruby Griffiths, from Oswestry with a vintage pram. *Pictures: Peter Flemmich.*

Peter Boulton and Brian Davies looking at some of the vintage machinery.

Bargain hunters at the auction.

Susannah Powell looks at some items going to auction.

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COMMENT

email: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk 01691 668090

Pleasing to see the Commissioner has listened

SO THIS week the top man from the Dyfed Powys Police Force admitted that Welshpool has a big problem with street drinkers – no surprise there.

The real surprise is that he even knows about the situation – and the even bigger surprise is that he says he intends to do something about it.

Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon was in town on Tuesday and, in an exclusive interview with The Chronicle, he promised a major crackdown on street boozing and anti-social behaviour.

He has received dozens of complaints about people drinking on the town's streets and has vowed to do all he can to bring an end to the problem.

But only time will tell if his promise to get more bobbies back on the beat to tackle the issue will come to fruition. History tells us that such declarations might turn out to be

shallow promises. The worrying thing is that he thinks that because there were no telephoned complaints during August the problem is going away.

Welshpool's street problems are a relatively new phenomenon and are clearly linked to the influx of newcomers with a culture of drinking in public.

Groups of drinkers congregate daily and are clearly intimidating to others. The opening of a new low-cost shop in Berriew Street has now led to the arrival of drinkers to a new location – the seated area at the nearby car park entrance. The town council is to be congratulated for helping local police tackle the issue by gathering as much evidence as possible – now it is up to members of the public to respond.

None of us should be afraid to report any incidents of anti-social behaviour. After all the Police Commissioner himself has vowed his support and we must give him the evidence that he craves.

□□□□□□

I TRY to avoid getting involved in national political debates but it is impossible this week to not comment on Labour Leader Ed Miliband's attack on energy companies.

The Labour leader has pledged gas and electricity bills would not go up for 20 months if he wins the 2015 election.

It has been welcomed by consumer groups angry at price hikes over recent years, but the "big six" suppliers warned it could have serious consequences.

Mr Miliband dismissed the suppliers as "unreliable witnesses" after they claimed his plan to freeze prices could lead to blackouts. He has written to them warning that without changes, taxpayer-funded guarantees to energy firms might not be sustainable.

In an inspired performance at the Labour Party Conference Mr Miliband produced a rousing speech that will have touched everyone of us who constantly complain about rising power costs. It's a pledge that will win a lot of support from voters and is one that heaps even more pressure on David Cameron's Conservative team. One of your best ideas yet Mr Miliband!

□□□□□□

THE show season finally came to an end last week.

Having spent a large part of last week travelling in the South of England and North Wales I have to say it's always nice to come home. We may moan and groan but living here is something to really cherish.

Firefighters raise cash with charity car wash

Steve Roberts washes a car.

Taking part in the car wash were James Lewis, Steve Roberts, Sean Pearce, Michael Mounsey, Tim Davidson, Shaun Evans, Steve Weston and John Davies.

by Sue Austin

FIREFIGHTERS found another use for their firefighting equipment, raising funds for charity with an all day car wash.

Crew members from Oswestry gave up their Saturday, and one of the last summer days of the year, to spend hours washing vehicles at the fire station in Willow Street.

All the proceeds from the event will go to the Firefighters' Charity.

The annual event is just one of the ways the firefighters in the town raise money for the charity which helps their colleagues and their families who are in need.

Station manager, John Davies, said: "The car wash was steady all day with drivers bringing along their vehicles.

"There were also a couple of vans but no unusual vehicles like we have had in the past. We were very grateful to the local businesses who donated all the materials we needed so that all the money raised could go to the charity."

Responded

Mr Davies said eight firefighters volunteered and took part in the car wash.

Even a 999 call to Oswestry fire station did not stop the fundraising. Mr Davies said: "We had a call out to a telegraph pole on fire at 3.30pm so half the firefighters responded and the other half stayed at the station."

The amount of money raised is still to be finalised.

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Q: My mother was admitted to hospital several weeks ago. Her condition has since deteriorated to the point where I have now been told that it is extremely unlikely she will ever be able to return home and look after herself or manage her own affairs. The doctor has advised me to get a Power of Attorney. What do I need to do?

A: A Lasting Power of Attorney is a document which enables someone in your mother's situation to appoint someone to manage her affairs for her. There are two types of Lasting Powers of Attorney, one which deals with Property and Affairs and the other with Health and Welfare.

Before your mother can complete either, you would need to establish that your mother has the legal capacity to understand such a document. Her GP should be able to confirm this for you. Assuming that your mother has this capacity, she would need to decide which form of Lasting Power of Attorney she required (she could have both) and who to appoint as her Attorney. She can appoint one or more people as her Attorney and there is nothing to stop you from acting, either alone or jointly with another.

She would also need to appoint someone to sign the Lasting Power of Attorney, to confirm that she understands the document and has not been unduly pressured into entering into it. This person is called a Certificate Provider. Once completed by all parties the Lasting Power of Attorney would need to be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian. Only after it has been registered may the powers under the Lasting Power of Attorney be exercised.
If your mother's GP decides she does not have capacity, however, you would need to apply to the Court of Protection to be appointed her Deputy.

Further information relating to this question is available from Victoria Wilson, a Senior Solicitor with GHP Legal.
For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk.
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LETTERS

01691 668094

Dementia group can give help for carers

THIS week the world commemorates World Alzheimer's Day as part of a month of action to raise awareness about this devastating disease.

Did your readers know that there are currently over 820,000 people with dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, in the UK?

It is estimated that one person in three over the age of 65 will die with a form of dementia and, as the population ages, this number can only increase. There will be over a million people with dementia by 2021.

Caring for a loved one with dementia can be a lonely, stressful experience.

The feeling of disconnection is hardest to bear. There may be precious moments of clarity, when memories briefly return and the years roll away, but for the most part carers have to watch their loved ones drifting slowly away.

So many carers are in desperate need of respite, but opportunities to be relieved of the caring role for even a short time are few and far between. Over a third of carers have never been able to take a break since they started caring.

Guilt

What's worse, our own research shows that six out of ten carers are overwhelmed with feelings of guilt about the putting the person they care for into respite care, even for just a few days. Some carers are so consumed by worry that they end up not taking any respite at all, but simply struggle on at home, risking ill-health and complete breakdown in the process.

I work for a charity called Vitalise. We provide essential respite breaks for people with disabilities and carers at our accessible respite break centres around the UK. Each year many hundreds of people take desperately-needed breaks with us.

We regularly have special weeks for people with Alzheimer's and dementia and their partners – there are some coming up in January. Relieved of all their care worries, carers can regain their strength and reconnect with their loved ones.

If you or someone you care about is affected by Alzheimer's or dementia and you would like to know more about Vitalise, please call 0303 303 0145 or visit **www.vitalise.org.uk**.

COLIN BROOK
Vitalise

Bag it up and raise cash for BHF

I AM writing to thank you and your readers for the support you've shown so far for Shropshire British Heart Foundation (BHF) shops' Great British Bag-athon.

BHF shops are aiming to collect one million bags of unwanted items throughout the month of September, so we really need the Shropshire community to join in, have a clear-out and donate bags to BHF Shropshire shops.

Taking part is easy. Fill up bags with unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags, books, DVDs and homewares and donate them to your local BHF shop.

Every bag you fill makes a real difference in the fight for every heartbeat and could be worth £20 to the BHF, helping to fund life-saving research into fighting heart disease.

If you have lots of things to donate, why not take on a Bag-athon challenge and aim to raise anything from five, 10 or even 15 bags for BHF Shropshire shops.

You can even ask friends and family to help you reach your target – the more you bag, the more researchers the BHF can fund and the more lives they can save.

There's still time for everyone in Shropshire to get involved and raise bags for the Great British Bag-athon. Those unwanted killer heels can help give heart disease the boot.

You can even book a free collection from your door by calling 0844 412 5000.

For more information on the Great British Bag-athon visit **bhf.org.uk/bagathon** or pop into your local shop.

Best wishes and good luck.

CATHY POULTNEY
Area manager
BHF shops

AS so often, there's no date with this postcard which depicts "Halston Hall Chapel, Whittington," which comes from the extensive collection of Shropshire postcard collector Ray Farlow. It looks though as if it might be from roughly around the 1920s.

Revolt on Europe is caused by scared MPs

LET us be perfectly clear about the motives of the Tory backbench 'revolt' demanding a referendum on Britain's continuing membership of the European Union.

It has absolutely nothing to do with Britain's isolation in that union, nothing to do with what is best for Britain or its people but everything to do with the future prospects of Tory MPs!

They, and MPs of all persuasions, have stood by for 40 years while the EU has been systematically dismantling Britain's sovereignty, governance, democracy, judicial system, health service and way of life.

They have failed to protect us in any way.

They have sat there and diligently collected their generous salaries, £200K per annum in perks, subsidies and allowances while looking forward toward the most generous pension pots in the country, all while their work-load has been substantially reduced by Brussels.

Along comes UKIP, which cannot comprehend why same-sex marriage is considered far more important than a European Union which is robbing us blind – and charging us £50 million every single day for the privilege.

UKIP, a single issue protest party which is supposed to have run its course and gone by now but is growing and taking Tory votes.

This could mean politicians losing their seats and having to find a proper job, a job not protected from the economic realities that real people are facing – and a job not already taken by the multi millions of immigrants coming into this country, which is not over yet!

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

How much will it cost taxpayers?

I'M delighted to read that, after listening to the views of 70 people, Shropshire Council is to consider replacing the statue of Lord Hill at a cost of £350,000.

Strange, then, that the council ignored thousands of residents' views when the deal to build the incinerator at Battlefield was cooked up between Veolia and long-since departed officers.

We now learn Veolia has gained approval to burn yet more material that should be composted or recycled.

This was only revealed after the Shropshire Star dragged the information out of Shirehall by way of an FoI request. God knows how much more this will cost council taxpayers.

STEVE BOULDING
Shrewsbury and North Shropshire Green Party

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU

FAX
01952 254605

E-MAIL
letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Fracking would hit future generations

FRACKING is not a choice between energy security and energy sustainability.

Fracking is about government encouraging the fossil fuel companies to shirk their duty to future generations in favour of short-term political and economic gain.

Fracking cannot stop our reliance on gas imports. Introducing green energy as part of a mixed energy policy can also achieve energy security.

Yet, greed and exploitation will, no doubt, result in money going to fracking that should otherwise go to green energy.

Investment in fracking would see the government leaving Britain's young with problems they made worse – that of climate change and of diminishing natural resources.

PIPPA BARTOLOTTI
Arweinydd Plaid Werdd Cymru

The truth is out there on EU influence

THE European Parliament is launching an "awareness-raising" campaign costing nearly six million pounds.

Apparently the aim is to raise the "public profile".

A spokesman for the European Parliament said: "With the majority of laws now being shaped at EU level, the Parliament is at least as powerful as any national parliament. It is therefore important for voters to know what decisions are taken and how they can shape those decisions".

So now you know – the denials are over, our government is rapidly becoming a puppet government taking orders from Brussels. I wonder if they're offering a prize to anyone who actually manages to influence them?

A.J. ASTLEY
Ellesmere

A great day out at rally

AS a winner of tickets for the recent Shrewsbury Steam Rally at Onslow Park I write to say it was a great day out in every way, and my second visit there.

A Shropshire event where town comes to countryside meet, and young and old can recall and learn of life in the past decades.

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WELSHPOOL

01691 668094

NEWS in brief

Remembrance date at town hall

WELSHPOOL Town Council and the Royal British Legion will be hosting the Festival of Remembrance in the Assembly Room at Welshpool Town Hall on Friday, November 8.

The evening starts with a parade of standards, accompanied by music from the Porthywaen Youth and Training Silver Band who will also lead the ever popular "Community Singing" later in the evening. The evening will conclude with the service of remembrance after which, refreshments will be served.

Advance sale tickets for the evening are priced at £6 and are now available from the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre or the town clerk's Office.

Club is holding a past players day

WELSHPOOL Rugby Club is holding a past players day on Saturday.

The club would like to invite any past players to attend and enjoy the day.

The day will start from 2:15pm at the pitch where the first team will be playing Harlech in what should be a closely fought league game.

There will be a pitch side marquee with bar serving beverages, refreshments and snacks. The club looks forward to welcoming generations of its players back to the club.

Town council to take over running of public toilets

PUBLIC toilets in Welshpool will be taken over by the town council after county council chiefs unveiled plans to save almost £1 million a year.

Powys County Council says it is trying to get rid of its 38 public toilets to save the £980,000 a year in running costs.

Now Welshpool Town Council has stepped in and has become the first local council to take over the running of the toilets in Church Street, Berriew Street, and the market.

Robert Robinson, town clerk, said: "The town council is taking over the public toilets.

"The council is not aware at the moment of any other town or community council in Montgomeryshire that has made a decision to take over their toilets.

"We will maintain the toilets and give them a deep steam clean before opening and they will be monitored on a daily basis more than once a day."

The county has a total of 67 public toilets – some owned and operated by Welsh government, others run by community groups including town and community councils, while 38 are owned by the local authority.

In addition, there are 30 private toilets run by businesses in Powys, such as cafes, which are open to the public.

They are funded by a Welsh government community toilet grant scheme.

Councillor Barry Thomas, who is responsible for the environment on Powys Council's cabinet, said it had transferred public toilets to community groups in the past.

He said the authority was looking to extend the scheme for the remaining 38 toilets directly managed by the county council.

"Groups taking on the facilities would receive a council grant for the service," he added.

"If community groups are not interested in managing the facilities then unfortunately the council will be forced to close them at the end of October.

"If there is no interest after that date the facilities will be declared surplus by March 2014."

by Graham Breeze

Time running more slowly in Welshpool

WELSHPOOL is running about five minutes slower than the rest of Wales, according to the town hall Clock.

Earlier in the summer the warm temperatures were blamed for the clock, which went through a costly refurbishment last year, losing time. But when it started losing time again last week, the council conceded the cause may be something more serious.

"It was put right earlier in the summer but there does seem to be a problem again," said a Town Council spokesperson. "It is a very old clock so we have asked the contractors to come back and have a look at it to see what is causing the problem."

Last year pigeons were blamed for the clock's inconsistency and it was cleaned up as part of an overall renovation of the town hall.

Holmes translation a big hit

Roy Upton-Holder from Welshpool, with a couple of copies of the book.

ELFENNOL, fy annwyl Watson! The first-ever Welsh translation of a Sherlock Holmes book is proving to be a success with the first print run almost selling out. ,One hundred copies of a Welsh version of The Speckled Band were published earlier this month and there are now very few copies remaining.

It was brought about by the Deerstalkers of Welshpool Sherlock Holmes society and Welsh is the 99th language a book about the master detective has been translated into.

Roy Upton-Holder, society founder, said he was pleased with how the translation of The Speckled Band – or Y Cylch Brith in Welsh – has gone down.

"It was something I was thinking about for years but it was finding a good translator. You must have somebody with real experience," he said.

Translator Eurwyn Pierce Jones, from Montgomery, worked for about five months on the text, producing several drafts before it went to print. For details visit **www.sherlockholmeswelshpool.com**

Anger as town hit by fourth water cut

UNDER-FIRE Severn Trent has made another apology after several areas of Welshpool were left without water again last Thursday.

Salop Road, Gungrog Road, Myrtle Drive, Garreg Drive and Bronwylfa Road were all affected by the latest problem, caused by a burst pipe.

And the company said it had provided bottled water to households with water expected to be reconnected by the end of the day.

It is the fourth time in a fortnight that supplies have been cut, and Severn Trent said it will look at replacing water pipes in the area as a long term solution.

A company spokesperson said: "We'd like to apologise to customers in Welshpool who may have been affected by a burst water pipe.

"We're doing all we can to restore water supply to homes as quickly as possible. We are delivering bottled water to homes in the affected area and we will be visiting customers to keep them up-to-date with our progress.

"To help prevent further disruption we have now made changes to the water supply system. We are also planning to install new water pipes in the area to make sure that our customers will receive a reliable water supply."

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NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY WALES
Thursday 3rd October - 7:45pm
Friday 4th October - 1:00pm
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Come along and enjoy a slice of your favourite cake (or two) and a cup of coffee in the knowledge that all the proceeds will be going to Macmillan Cancer Research.
Cancer is the toughest fight most of us will ever face but we, along with lots of others, will be raising money to make sure everyone has a Macmillan team in their corner, from diagnosis, through treatment, and afterwards. That way, no one will have to face cancer alone.
Owner of Coed y Dina, Chris Lloyd said "We're delighted to be hosting such an event, so many of us are affected by cancer that it's great to be helping, if only in a small way".
So, if you're feeling peckish and would like to help, COME ALONG!
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Town ceremony marks funeral of April Jones

by Graham Breeze

A CEREMONY to mark the funeral of murdered schoolgirl April Jones will be held in Welshpool.

Five-year-old April's funeral will be today (Thursday) at St Peter's Church in Machynlleth, but Welshpool Town Council has agreed to hold a separate ceremony in the town following requests.

People are being invited to gather outside the town hall for music, prayers and a minute's silence, followed by an address by the mayor, Councillor John Meredith.

Robert Robinson, Welshpool town clerk, said: "Due to public request, the council has agreed to get involved with an event outside the Town Hall on Thursday.

"The public have asked for something and the council is happy to provide what is needed. April's death touched people far and wide and many people in Welshpool were deeply moved so we were happy to get involved with this.

"At 12.20pm people are asked to gather around the town hall and a piece of music will be played through the sound system at 12.25. At 12.30 there will be a minute's silence, followed by prayers and an address by the mayor. All are invited to wear something pink, April's favourite colour."

The idea for an event in Welshpool was first suggested by Cheryl Whittingham, who lives on Gungrog Hill in the town.

She said: "I hope people will wear pink or a pink ribbon for the event."

Mourners in Machynlleth on the day of April's funeral have also been asked to wear pink or colourful clothing.

The funeral cortege will leave April's home on the Bryn y Gog estate and a horse and carriage will carry her coffin.

Her family say everyone is welcome to attend the funeral service.

A strictly private burial will then follow for close family and friends only.

Recycling boost for school

David Williams with Jo Baines, a member of the teaching staff, and pupil Laura Jones, who is wearing the school's new netball kit part-funded by the PTFA and the team members.

TWO tables and three separate benches, created from waste farm plastics, are now sited at Welshpool High School.

The tables and benches have been created by Birch Farm Plastics of Swansea with farm waste collected by Potters Waste Management of Welshpool.

They were funded by the school, the Parent Teachers & Friends Association and Potters.

David Williams, technical manager for Potters, said: "Potters Waste Management are pleased to support the re-use of materials in the local community and we are delighted to be able to see the tables and benches being used at the High School."

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NEWS in brief

Magicians set to perform at venue

A PAIR of award-winning Victorian magicians will be bringing their unique brand of tricks and mystery to Oswestry.

Morgan & West, who won the television contest Penn & Teller: Fool Us last year, will be performing at the Ironworks in Church Street on October 4.

The pair have performed sell out shows in Edinburgh since 2009 and will be performing baffling magic tricks and predicting the future during the show, which will start at 8pm.

Tickets cost from £8 and are available from the venue or by calling (01691) 679123.

Toy and model train sale in town

A TOY and model train sale featuring brands including Dinky, Matchbox, Corgi and Hornby Trains will be taking place in Oswestry.

The Borders and Oswestry Toy and Train Sale will be held at The Pavillion at Oswestry Showground on October 19 from 10.30am until 3pm. Admission costs £1.75 for adults and £1.35 for concessions.

Comedy at theatre

ALAN Ayckbourn's 1994 award-winning comedy Communicating Doors is coming to a Shropshire theatre. It will be Oswestry's Attfield Theatre Company's first production of the new season. Call (01691) 680222.

Anger at plans to close sports centre on Saturdays

COUNCILLORS have vowed to fight plans to close Llanfyllin's sports centre on Saturdays.

They claimed the town was facing cuts to its leisure services because of failing sports centres in other areas of Powys at a meeting last week.

The councillors, who all sit in Llanfyllin Town Council, will meet leisure chiefs next month to put forward their arguments over why the closure plan should be halted.

by Iain St John

The move was made after Powys County Council's senior manager for active healthy lives Neil Mathews attended last night's town council meeting to explain the reasons behind the closure plan.

Town councillor John Brautigam told Mr Mathews Llanfyllin needed to keep its leisure services at the current level.

He said: "We don't want to see any sort of unnecessary changes to the leisure centre programme. It seems to be running fairly successfully.

Tamper

"We tamper with it at our peril."

Mr Brautigam said the income at the centre seemed to balance quite closely with the cost of running it through the county council's support services.

He said the county council should be looking at reducing overheads, not services.

And he pushed for a meeting with county leisure chiefs so the town councillors could understand more about the costs of running the leisure centre.

Town councillor George Stroud echoed these views and added reducing the opportunity to access the sports centre, particularly the swimming pool, had wider health implications for public health.

And he suggested Llanfyllin was losing out because other county leisure centres were struggling.

He said: "How are the other centres doing in terms of costs? We need comparative figures.

"We seem to be bearing the cost in our sports centre for thing that are going on in other sports centres across the area."

Mr Mathews said he agreed that an increasing older population and childhood obesity meant access to a healthy lifestyle was more important than ever.

He said his desire was to see all sports and leisure centres stay open and provide the level of service they currently provide.

But he said cuts had already been made and further serious funding challenges lay ahead.

Friends provide new wheelchair for unit

ORLAU technical instructor Jayne Jones is seen with patient Ellyw Jones, of Llanwrin, near Machynlleth and hospital league of friends chairman Trish Norris.

A NEW wheelchair has been presented to a specialist unit at Oswestry's orthopaedic hospital by supporters.

The League of Friends to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital bought the chair, costing £186, for the Orthotic Research and Locomotor Assessment Unit (ORLAU).

ORLAU technical instructor Jayne Jones said the chair had large wheels and could be self propelled or pushed along.

It will be used to move patients in and around the unit and to outside facilities such as the X-ray unit.

Choir to perform in charity concert

THE Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir, based at the renowned hospital near Oswestry, are to perform a concert in the town.

The choir will be supporting the Oswestry Rheumatology Association and will be performing a concert at Christ Church in Oswestry on Saturday at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available on the door costing £6 with all proceeds in aid of the Oswestry Rheumatology Association.

Musical director Isobel Clare said: "The choir has a long association with the orthopaedic hospital and are very pleased to be asked to support the work of the Oswestry Rheumatology Association.

"The choir welcome new members, males over 18, and no previous experience is needed, just a desire to sing.

"Practices are held every Thursday at the orthopaedic hospital starting at 7.30pm."

Harvest festival at village church

A VILLAGE church will be holding its harvest festival tomorrow (Friday).

Cefn Chapel, close to Trewern, near Welshpool, will hold the event from 7pm. It will feature an auction of produce, including cakes, fruit and vegetables.

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Hospital volunteers thanked for help

VOLUNTEERS at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have been thanked for their vital role in the success of the world famous hospital.

Around 130 volunteers, the majority members of the League of Friends, attended a party thrown in their honour by the High Sheriff of Shropshire, Mrs Diana Flint, and her Clwyd counterpart, Mrs Celia Jenkins.

Both high sheriffs are themselves working volunteers at the hospital.

Mrs Flint is a member of the Flower Guild and Mrs Jenkins carries out duties in the league's coffee shop.

The party was held at Halston Hall, Whittington, home of Mr Rupert and Mrs Harriet Harvey.

Speaking at the event hospital trust chairman, Mr Russell Hardy, said the hospital's army of more than 250 volunteers contribute some 20,000 hours a year representing a monetary value of at least £150,000 to £200,000 a year.

He said: "It allows the hospital to do things it would otherwise not be able to do." He said the volunteers also provided a warm welcome to patients and visitors.

"This really is very important and makes a big difference. "The hospital would not have the reputation it has without the League of Friends," he added.

Police in vow to take action on playing field drugs claim

POLICE insist they are tackling drug offences on a playing field in Gobowen – despite claims from councillors that more must be done to curb the problem.

Sergeant Scott Barnes, who is based in Oswestry, said patrols were being carried out in Gobowen and that a caution had been issued to somebody found in possession of cannabis in the playing fields area. He said foot patrols had also been carried out around Gobowen Pavilion and Hammonds Place.

It comes after several parish councillors called for further action on drug use and dealing on the playing fields off St Martins Road.

by Iain St John

The calls were made at a meeting of Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council after a member of the public and councillors themselves both reported that they had witnessed drug dealing and drug use.

The meeting was told when reports had been made previously, a police car took up to 30 minutes to arrive and only drove on to the car park at the playing fields before leaving.

During the meeting, parish councillor Paul Drury said cannabis was being smoked by drug users on the playing fields.

Raised

Parish councillor Simon Westwood Bate said he wanted more to be done, pointing out the problem of drug use in the playing fields had been raised with the police two months ago by councillors.

And Councillor Ian Bennett said plain clothed officers should come to the playing fields to see the problem for themselves.

Sergeant Barnes said the action against the person found in possession of cannabis was taken as part of a normal patrol and not as a response to the councillors' comments.

He said: "The caution we issued was a continuation of the work we have already been doing in the area. We use uniformed officers and community support officers to offer a highly visible presence which acts as a reassurance to the public and it also acts as a deterrent to some offending."

Charlie enjoys world success

A SPORTS star from Oswestry celebrated his 18th birthday in an unusual way – by firing a British wheelchair basketball team into the final stages of a prestigious global competition.

Although he is still a teenager, Charlie Fryer-Stevens plays for the Great Britain under-23 wheelchair basketball team. And the former Oswestry School pupil marked his 18th birthday by playing at the World Championships in Turkey.

On his birthday student Charlie was in action, firing home eight points against a team from South Africa. Unfortunately the team lost out to Australia for the bronze medal in the final seconds of the game.

Charlie said: "I loved the whole experience. It was a massive privilege to be selected for GB and be part of such an incredible team. At first I was gutted to have come within touching distance of the bronze medal, but, with hindsight, I feel that it will collectively inspire us to achieve more."

Charity challenge a cut above

Nicola Davies and her boss Leanne Hillidge, from Razors, will be cutting hair for Nicola's charity trek to the Grand Canyon.

LATE night hair cuts are helping a barber to realise her dream of a charity trek through the Grand Canyon.

Nicola Davies, from Oswestry, is hoping to raise £3,000 for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Chester by taking part in the expedition next month.

She and her boss, Leanne Hillidge, are opening the Razors Barber Shop in Beatrice Street on Friday evenings from 5.50-7pm with proceeds going to the fund.

Donations can also be made by visiting the web page **www.justgiving.com/Nicola-Davies15**

Plan for a 'living wall' gets backing

A PLAN to put a "green living wall" on the outside of one of Oswestry's main shops has won the support of town councillors.

Marks and Spencer says its plans for its Simply Food store on Smithfield Road would see one of the walls covered with plants and foliage.

Town councillors have been consulted on the plans and say they welcome them as they would "considerably brighten up and enhance the area".

Papers lodged in support of the bid say the living walls initiative is part of the company's Plan A project which makes a commitment to significantly reducing the carbon footprint of the business.

The papers say: "The application which seeks permission for the installation of a single green wall on the front elevation of the existing Marks and Spencer Simply Food store is considered to generate significant benefits.

"There will be five planting areas on the living wall each containing a different set of plants.

"All the plants are indigenous to the UK and are considered wildlife friendly, chosen because of their benefit to local wildlife."

Shropshire Council hopes to decide on the bid by the end of this month.

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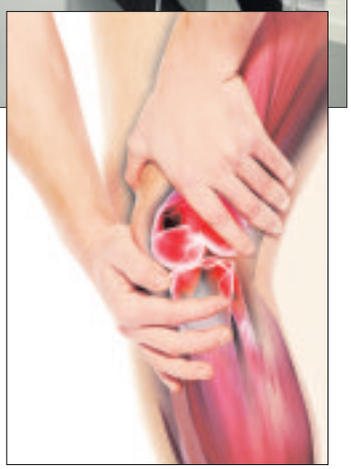

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Clinical Reference: **1.** Bar-Ziv Y. et al, BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders 2010 **2.** Elbaz A. et al, Clinical Biomechanics 2010 **3.** Haim A. et al, Journal of Biomechanics 2011 **4.** Elbaz A et al, Knee Surg Traumatol Artrosc 2012 **5.** Independent telephone survey conducted by Network Research in 2009 amongst 150 AposTherapy patients in the UK. This ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE is not intended to discourage essential surgery in relevant cases. Individual results may vary. Phone lines are open: Monday-Friday 9am-6pm *Subject to eligibilty criteria. † Subject to eligibility criteria and pre-authorisation. Individual results may vary. This advertisement is not intended to discourage other treatments or surgical intervention where recommended. Always seek the advice of your physician or other heath provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.

Driver in escape as pick-up hits car

A DRIVER was lucky to escape injury when his car door was hit by a pick-up truck as he got out of his vehicle.

The pick-up truck driver failed to stop after the collision in the Shropshire village of St Martins, police said.

The crash caused damage to both vehicles. Police say the male driver was getting out of his red Citroen Xsara Picasso car in a parking area at the top of Moors Bank at about 9.30pm on Wednesday last week when the collision occurred.

Police spokesman Richard Ewels said: "The driver was getting out of his car when a white pick-up struck the door of the vehicle, causing considerable damage to the door. The pick-up failed to stop.

"Constable Melanie Davies of Oswestry Police Station is appealing for information about the identify of the driver of the white pick-up.

"In particular there was a small dark coloured hatchback following behind the pick-up. That driver may have seen the collision and is being asked to contact police."

Information can be passed on to Constable Davies by calling the non-emergency 101 number or dialling the confidential Crimestoppers line on 0800 555111.

Public transport could get a slice of villages' lottery cash

THE first slice of a £1 million lottery grant earmarked for three villages could be spent on providing better transport for residents and improving communication between the communities.

The funding will be spent over 10 years in the villages of Gobowen, St Martins and Weston Rhyn.

A project team has been set up to look at how the Big Local lottery cash should be spent.

Although a community plan is still to be finalised, team members say they are now at a stage where they can spend £18,000 of the £1 million funding on short term projects.

by Iain St John

David Boyce, 3 Parishes Big Local co-ordinator, said various ideas on how to spend the first slice of the money had been given at a public meeting in Gobowen.

He said: "We have had lively discussions and came up with a few ideas."

He said one issue was public transport in the three villages.

"For example how does a teenager who does not drive but has got a job but needs to get to Wrexham Industrial Estate by 8am every day, for example, get to work?

"Or how do older or disabled people get around? Can we help teenagers get around at weekends? This is certainly worth exploring to see if we can use some of the first slice of funding to help the situation."

Chairman of the 3 Big Parishes Big Local partnership Nick Heard said through consultation and research a vision had been developed on how the £1m will be spent.

He said: "The vision includes encouraging and supporting a strong enterprise culture in the area, ensuring that people are well qualified to make the most of their opportunities, and working to make sure no-one is excluded from taking an active part in the life of the community because of poor earnings or high living costs, isolation or disability.

"We're now ready to start writing our first community plan which will set out in detail how we will use the money to make the most of our opportunity."

Councillors air care home plans

COUNCILLORS in Oswestry have aired concerns over ambitious plans to transform a house into a new care home for the town.

The plans for the White House on Racecourse Road about a mile from Oswestry would see the building of two storey extensions to the house as well as the building of 10 single storey properties.

Papers lodged in support of the bid say the development would create an "exciting and innovative project towards care in the community in the Oswestry area".

Agents Timby Sustainable Homes Ltd say in the papers White House would be extended and developed to provide 11 bedrooms including staff accommodation.

Town clerk David Preston, in the council's objection letter, said: "It is considered that the proposed activity may represent over-intensification of development particularly in a green field/agricultural area.

"Major concerns apply over the capacity of the infrastructure."

School wins top contest awards

Will Anderson-Edwards, a Year 9 student at the Marches School, Oswestry, and Sue Goode, teaching assistant, celebrate their success.

THE Marches School has won two silver awards in this year's Oswestry In Bloom competition.

Pupils were delighted to receive the silver award in the "Outstanding Work by Young People" category.

The award is recognition for their work creating a colourful relaxation area with colourful wall paintings, plants and seating.

The Marches also won a silver award in the 'Best Kept School' category. Headteacher Sarah Longville said: "The site staff at the school work tirelessly all year round to ensure that the students are educated in a clean and inspiring environment.

"We are delighted to receive both of these awards as testament to the hard work and commitment of students and staff at The Marches School."

Scheme aimed at younger workers

A SCHEME designed to get more youngsters working in Mid Wales – and to keep them in the region – has been launched.

Powys County Council has set up a Youth Employment Programme which will offer youngsters the chance to experience work with the authority in a bid to keep them local.

Four objectives have been earmarked by the group including setting up work experience projects, apprenticeships, training placements and graduate work programmes through the authority.

The programme was discussed by councillors at a meeting of Powys County Council's Montgomeryshire Committee and was given a warm welcome by members.

Councillor Joy Shearer, member for Rhiwcynon, said: "Even if this scheme just gets youngsters out of bed in the morning it has to be a great thing."

The council said figures show an average of 725 people aged between 17 and 20 leave the county each year, while it gains 265 people aged 21 to 24 each year.

Lisa Griffiths, organisational development manager for the programme, told the committee: "It has been established to attempt to reduce youth unemployment and youth migration."

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Politician puts in a shift at factory

POLITICIAN Ken Skates swapped a day of debating on the floor of the Welsh Assembly for a day on the factory floor in Chirk.

The Assembly member put in a shift at Kronospan, the wood panel product specialist,as part of a trade union project aimed at giving politicians an insight into their constituents' jobs.

The Unite programme saw Mr Skates take a short break from his Welsh Government duties to work at Kronospan's British factory in Chirk.

Mr Skates was among a number of Labour politicians taking part in Unite's "Walk a Day in our Shoes" campaign.

The programme matches AMs with fellow union members to give them a valuable insight into what their constituents do on a daily basis.

The Wrexham-born AM was paired with a team of three, led by Unite rep Tony Clarke, at Kronospan.

The plant, founded in 1970, employs more than 600 people – 90 per cent of whom live within 10 miles of the site.

Mr Skates said: "It was fascinating to learn about the manufacturing processes at Kronospan. which is a major local employer and plays a key role in our region's economy."

Fare dodgers warned of new clampdown by rail operator

A RAIL firm operating services on the Shropshire/Welsh border has announced a new clampdown on fare dodging.

The move, by Arriva Train Wales, has been welcomed by rail campaigners.

The company has launched an advertising campaign to warn passengers that they are putting themselves at risk of being prosecuted and fined up to £1,000 if caught without the correct ticket.

Arriva Trains Wales employs experienced Revenue Protection Teams to randomly check station exits and trains to make sure passengers have the correct ticket for their journey.

by Iain St John

In recent months, more than 1,400 cases have been taken to court, recovering more than £10,000 in avoided fares.

Christine Ashford, from Friends of Chirk Station, welcomed the fresh crackdown.

She said: "I think it has to be done unfortunately because it does go on.

"It is possible to get on the train from some stations without paying, especially the smaller unmanned ones, and I suppose if you hide from the attendant or if the train is busy you might not be asked for a ticket before you get off.

"It is not fair that some passengers decide not to pay while others do. The majority of passengers are honest but there are some who try to get away with it."

Peter Northcott, head of revenue protection and security at Arriva Trains Wales, said: "Our message really is that people may think they are clever trying not to buy a ticket but it's not so clever when they are faced with a prosecution and a fine.

"Those who are caught and prosecuted are generally facing fines of around £400.

"We also want to remind passengers that having a prosecution can possibly have a knock-on effect on future job prospects or applications for financial products such as loans and mortgages.

"We are clamping down on fare evasion because it has an impact on the amount of revenue that we can invest back into the network to improve passenger services."

Demonstration day at gallery

A HOST of artists will be demonstrating their crafts in the Willow Gallery in Oswestry on Saturday. Sue Christian specialises in silk scarves and wraps and will be weaving in the gallery.

She has recently started dyeing the silk yarns herself, and uses simple weaves and twills that have been used for centuries using traditional looms. She will be selling a selection of her pieces.

And pastel artist Katherine Laird and wood carver Jim Heath will also be at work in the gallery during the day, as they have been every Saturday throughout September.

Oil painter Karl Robinson-Bray will be showing his techniques as well, as he is currently working daily in an historic studio space next to the Willow Gallery where a variety of his landscapes and scenes of rural and village life are being exhibited.

Admission is free and the gallery is open 10am to 5pm.

Young put their stamp on Christmas

Oliver Miller, seven, from Moreton Hall School, near Oswestry, with his winning Christmas stamp design.

ROBINS, santa and snowmen were all popular themes when children from across Britain entered the Royal Mail's design a Christmas stamp competition.

But Oliver Miller, from Oswestry, took his inspiration from his grandmother and decided on a Christian theme for his stamp.

His artwork of three kings and three sheep has put him through to the finals of the competition and could lead to it being used on the festive stamps this year.

The seven-year-old's entry is just one of 140 from 240,000 entries to make it through to the final stages.

Contract awarded for civic centre job

A KNOCKIN company will carry out the first phase of work as part of the £1.6 million revamp of Whitchurch Civic Centre.

Pave Aways has been chosen by Shropshire Council to carry out the work, which was put out to tender in June.

Contractors are due to start work later this month and hope to finish by the middle of February.

The first part of the work will include making improvements to the facade of the 1970s building and the foyer.

This new foyer area will accommodate Shropshire Council's Information Point, Whitchurch Town Council's reception and the tourist information point.

As part of the work, an electricity sub-station currently located within the basement of the building will be moved to a new location.

Phase two will include work on the interior and Whitchurch Town Council is in the process of applying for grant funding for this.

Gerald Dakin, Shropshire councillor for Whitchurch South, said: "We are delighted that, after a long period of consultation, development and review, this important work is getting under way."

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Achievement through caring

Year 10 students experience life at Cambridge University during a residential visit. One of the many 'Aspiration Raising and Horizon Widening' activities the school organises throughout the academic year.

"Throughout their time in school students thoroughly enjoy learning" – OFSTED

The new Student Leadership Group 2013-14.

CHOOSING the right secondary school is one of the most important decisions a parent will ever make.

The Marches School's mission statement is "Achievement through caring" and as the school celebrates its 25th anniversary, parents can feel assured the school has a proven track record of delivering an outstanding level of education to the young people of Oswestry and beyond.

Formed in September 1988, following the merger of Oswestry's two comprehensive secondary schools, The Marches School has reached some crucial milestones recently. And, in this special anniversary year, the school is delighted to welcome their first ever students into the new Sixth Form; the next exciting step for The Marches.

Following much development at Morda Road, The Marches School began operating on one site from 1993 and was awarded Technology College status in 1996.

Further additions and improvements to the school facilities have continued throughout its history.

This includes the addition of the Millennium Block, Astro-Turf, Apple Mac Diploma Suite, Sports Hall and, most recently, the development of the recently acquired adjacent site, which, following an extensive refurbishment, will provide state of the art Sixth Form facilities.

Advertisement feature

Fully equipped with the latest technology, quiet study spaces and a trendy, modern common room, the Sixth Form Centre will be a fabulous addition to the school's already outstanding facilities.

Headteacher Sarah Longville said: "Results day this year was particularly momentous because, rather than leaving to pursue their futures elsewhere, for the first time ever, students now have the opportunity to continue on their learning journey at The Marches, in the new Sixth Form.

"This is a very exciting time for the school, with major developments currently taking place and we are keen to open up our doors and invite people for a look around."

The Marches School prides itself on providing an outstanding level of education, both inside and outside of the classroom, to equip students with the skills required to prosper in the 21st Century.

This September's Year 7 intake was 15 per cent higher than previous years, suggesting the school is growing in popularity, both within and beyond catchment.

Deputy headteacher Alison Pearson said: "This year we were delighted to welcome a number of students from areas outside of the local catchment, suggesting the school's popularity is growing not only locally, but across Shropshire and into Powys and Wrexham."

The school is inviting parents who are considering their child's secondary school options, to attend and the Open Evening on Thursday, October 10 between 4pm and 8pm.

For those considering their post-16 options, the school is also holding a Sixth Form Information Evening on Thursday, October 17 between 6pm and 8pm.

For parents and carers who are unable to attend the Open Events, the school is arranging individual visits and tours. To make an appointment please contact the school on 01691 664400. For more information please call the school or visit **www.marchesschool.co.uk**

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marches school

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The Marches School, rated **'Outstanding'** by Ofsted, is a *non-fee paying* Secondary School and Sixth Form located in Oswestry. As the school celebrates its 25th Anniversary, parents and students can feel assured that The Marches has a proven track record of delivering an outstanding, all-round education both inside and outside of the classroom.

We will be holding an Open Event for parents of primary school students who are currently considering their secondary school options.

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School is looking to future results

Advertisement feature

THE Thomas Adams School excels in its efforts to produce academically successful pupils who benefit from the institution's many extra-curricular activities.

"We were really pleased that more than 76 per cent of our students gained five A*-C grades," said head teacher Liz Dakin.

"But we now look to push this even higher in the coming year."

Serving Wem and rural north Shropshire, this co-educational 11-18 community school stands in 30 acres of grounds.

The school has done a lot to invest in specialist classrooms and technology, as well as recruiting the best possible teachers.

Activity

But the school does not rely on academic success alone for its reputation.

Within the last year, the school jazz band has toured Italy, there have been trips to France, Germany, Spain and the United States, and to outdoor activity centres in the UK.

Anyone who has seen any of the regular school concerts and productions will be familiar with the wealth of talent at the school.

All this is nurtured by the music and drama departments, which have specialist facilities, including performance spaces.

The school also has a boarding unit, Adams House, which caters for around 60 youngsters from Britain and abroad.

While providing a safe environment for boarders, it widens Shropshire pupils' horizons by meeting people from other cultures.

Though a school needs to be large enough to offer expertise in many subjects, it must be small enough for staff to know their pupils.

Accordingly, there is a house system, with registration form tutors, heads of year and a pastoral team to ensure pupils are happy and settled.

Mrs Dakin said: "It is vital that the students are given opportunities to engage in new experiences and challenges, which will also develop their ability to socialize, work well with others and increase confidence."

Headteacher Liz Dakin with Frew Nicol-Schwarz, deputy head boy, Nico Pickard, head boy, Ellie McGrath, head girl, and Hannah Morgan, deputy head girl.

School wins place on awards shortlist

Back from left are Marie Jones, deputy head, sixth-former Amy Partridge, Michael Getty, headmaster, Dommy Goddard, head girl, and Grace Hardy, deputy head girl. In front are Tara Shoker, Sophie Haspel and Abby Pollard.

Advertisement feature

SHREWSBURY High School pupils are celebrating after hearing that the school has received one of the highest accolades in Independent Education, in being shortlisted in the UK Independent School of the Year Awards, 2013.

This national award is run by the Independent Schools Association and recognises outstanding achievement.

The High School has been listed for the Outstanding Strategic Initiative Award in recognition of the school's highly ambitious recent development.

The school's 14-acre development of a new Preparatory School on Roman Road was praised, with the superb facilities and picturesque site being recognised by the awards. The integration of the new Prep School and the highly regarded Senior School was also praised along with the school's ambitious building of a new Sixth Form development on the Town Walls.

The new sixth form has seen the school invest £1 million in a new building with a series of bespoke common rooms and study facilities aimed at raising the benchmark on sixth form provision.

"We are quite stunned to receive this national accolade," said headmaster, Michael Getty.

"To receive such recognition on a national scale for our recent strategic development of the school is quite humbling and we are incredibly proud of all those that have contributed to this success.

"The most rewarding aspect of this shortlisting is that it recognises our school's achievements across the board, from the development of our new prep school through to our soon-to-be-opened new sixth form and how the school is moving forward so ambitiously into the future."

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College aim is to provide support for every pupil

Advertisement feature

ELLESMERE College welcomes students from over 20 nationalities, with a wide range of academic ability and from all social backgrounds, aged between seven and 18.

Their location may be beautifully rural but their outlook is global and international.

Ellesmere's educational philosophy is that we all learn differently and that every learning style is a special gift. Ellesmere knows that students develop at different rates and at different times. The support for each individual student at Ellesmere whether in learning, language or the successful Academic Enrichment programme, offer students the very best in education today.

The school also recognises that these are tough financial times and offers a range of Bursaries and Scholarships enabling as many young people as possible the benefit of an Ellesmere education. In Ellesmere's Lower School, with entry at every level from Years 3 to 8, the focus is on helping to nurture positive, independent, active and enquiring individuals.

This is not a school where students are dropped off at the start of term and collected at the end. On the contrary, Ellesmere works closely with parents communicating frequently and inviting them to meetings, sporting, cultural and social events. In Year 9, pupils join Middle School and the Ellesmere Curriculum begins with a broad range of subjects, which becomes the basis on which to build gradual specialisation towards the attainment of GCSEs.

All Ellesmere students, of all ages develop leadership and entrepreneurial skills through team sports, the Combined Cadet Force, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, as well as personal confidence through public speaking initiatives.

Students at Ellesmere College receive plenty of individual support.

Those who join Ellesmere's outstanding Sports Academies, often go on to represent their county and their country. Students have achieved international recognition in rugby, swimming, sailing, canoeing, tennis and shooting. Of course not everyone is brilliant at sport.

Those who aren't are just as important as those who are. Ellesmere's highly-qualified coaches encourage everyone to play for the sheer joy of it and at the level at which they are comfortable, making sure students go as far as they can.

The Ellesmere Sixth Form also provides a unique set of opportunities. The focus is on academic priorities and achieving the best possible results for each individual.

Brendan Wignall, Headmaster of Ellesmere College said: " We are not an exam factory. That is a vital message in an age driven by league tables and statistics. We are committed to the development of each individual student, seeing them reach their full potential."

Future pupils invited to visit school's open week

Adams' pupils research news items for a school project.

AS the new academic year gets under way, Adams' Grammar School in Newport is preparing to open its doors for its annual Open Week.

With two presentations daily, at 9.45am and 1.45pm, the Open Week is intended for entrants to the lower school – separate arrangements are made for students interested in the sixth form.

Adams' is a selective state grammar school with academy status, meaning students can apply to join the school irrespective of their home location.

Advertisement feature

The school welcomes boys aged 11-18 as day pupils and boarders and girls aged 16-18 as day pupils.

It is not well known that Adams' has approximately 100 boarders.

Headmaster Michael Barratt said: "People are often surprised when I tell them Adams' is a state grammar school with boarding provision for boys, yet boarding is a significant part of our culture and contributes greatly to school life.

"They are even more surprised to learn how affordable boarding is – as this is a state school, there are no tuition fees.

"We are always happy to talk to families about boarding and to show them around Longford Hall, our boarding house for the younger pupils.

"Open Week, from September 30 to October 4, offers the opportunity for families to visit, meet pupils and staff, hear about our philosophy and our vision. We will be holding a dedicated boarding open evening on Wednesday, October 23. All information can be found by visiting the school website at **www.adamsgs.org.uk**."

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FEATURE

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A view of the keen shoppers in Oswestry's Church Street. The town has 'held its own' during the past few years.

Yossi Gliksman at Upstairs Downstairs.

Oswestry Market has been awarded the accolade of the best Local Council Market.

Gordon Mills shows off the collection of vinyl in his record shop

Town centre times a changing

Times have been tough in the recession in market towns but CLAIRE DUNN discovers how the traders in Oswestry are determined to fight back

Offices at Oswestry Livestock Market which is proposed for development.

THE wind of change is blowing in Oswestry.

The nod has just been given for the market town's first major out-of-town shopping and entertainment development.

A Morrisons superstore, a multi-screen cinema and a series of restaurants and retail units and a new livestock market are to be built on the site of town's livestock market. But the scheme has not been without controversy, largely because of fears about the effect its creation would have on the town centre.

There are concerns that people will come to Oswestry and use the development without venturing into and spending their money in the town. But there are others that welcome the development as a sign that the town is moving forwards.

In the centre, there are just a few hints that Oswestry, like so many other towns across the country, has been affected by the recession. Cross Street starts with a small collection of empty shops. However, before you know it, you reach a bustling, lively town centre which sees traditional high street names mingling with an abundance of independents.

According to those that work there, Oswestry is a town which, in the wake of a painful economic downturn, is proudly holding its own. Indeed the green shoots of growth are there, say some. One independent trader, Yossi Gliksman, has run a business in Oswestry for nearly three decades.

He said: "We really did feel the effect of the recession, probably at a slightly later stage, in 2009. There was a massive drop in footfall. We didn't give up but a lot did and the big boys suffered nationally. Woollies has gone, Littlewoods, Bon Marche. But the small shops have survived because they can adapt themselves."

Mr Gliksman and his wife run Upstairs Downstairs, a specialist cookshop in Leg Street, where they have been for 27 years.

He said: "We put the shutters down, our heads down and we tried to ride the recession. Very quickly we learned that if you stand still you are not going to go forwards, and sometimes you can go backwards."

So they "took a risk", expanded and diversified by offering cookery workshops. "The response has been amazing," he said.

"Oswestry itself is holding its own. There are a few empty shops but not too many. No more than other towns. People say Oswestry is dying. It hasn't died and it never will. My only worry now is the imminent development out of town."

Mr Gliksman, a former chairman of the town's chamber of commerce, says he would have preferred to have seen the development kept within the town centre, to keep current shoppers and attract more in.

Already doing a good job of attracting shoppers to the town is its indoor market hall, one of Oswestry's greatest assets, according to Mr Gliksman.

Powis Hall market has been such a success that it won recognition in a national awards scheme this year, and was named best council-run market. It is open on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays "In my opinion the indoor market should be open every day," said Mr Gliksman. "That in itself will attract people to Oswestry and we will all benefit from it."

He also said he believes the town would become stronger if short stay on-street parking was introduced. And he also called for the town's two pedestrianised streets to be reopened to through traffic.

"In a market town you need to have open streets," he said.

"Traffic has got to go through it even if it is one way. We need the reopening of the pedestrianised, streets mainly Cross Street. It is a main artery in the town and they have just chopped it. We should also have on-street parking for 40 minutes so people can pop in and out.

"These two things should be done with immediate effect. I think as soon as we do that the picture will change dramatically."

One of the little green shoots is Gordon Mills, who has just opened his first shop in Beatrice Street. He was a nurse for 22 years before realising his dream of launching his own music shop, Outwhere Records.

"I have loved music since I was 13 and it has never stopped. It was a dream of mine to do something like this," he said.

"And best of all it's in my home town."

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CRAIGNANT WOOD

It is rare that a fair sized woodland is offered for sale in the North Shropshire/Welsh Marches area, but this is being corrected with the sale of Craignant Woodland close to Oswestry. With a total area of 57.7 acres (23.3 hectares), the woodland has good access and a central stoned track. It was bought by the present owner as a semi-derelict plantation from the Forestry Commission and replanted twelve years ago.

The property lies on either side of the upper reaches of the Morlas Brook at Craignant, and grows over twenty species of tree. The new planting was for commercial conifers and occupies about half the area, mostly Sitka spruce and Douglas fir. These have established well and have been fully maintained by the present owner. The wood includes mature poplars and Scots pine, with the other half full of broadleaf trees such as oak, sweet chestnut and rowan, the latter with a spectacular berry crop for the wild life.

A new owner should find enough firewood each year to supply a wood burner. In previous years the land has been let for a small family shoot and last year it was used for a day for an antique motor cycle rally!

Apart from the stream this is a great property for conservation and amenity interest. The Spring sees a carpet of bluebells. Nesting birds recorded are green woodpeckers, dippers and ravens in the old Scots pine trees, and the wood boasts resident woodcock. The sale includes a small foresters hut, with comfortable arm chair!

Asking price; £160,000

Mike Tustin of John Clegg & Co commented: "The woodland market for amenity/conservation woods in England or larger commercial plantations throughout the UK has strengthened considerably in the past two years in strong contrast to other sectors of the property market. Craignant Wood offers a good opportunity to acquire a woodland, whether for amenity, conservation, wildlife interest, timber interest or other reasons.

John Clegg & Co, with offices in England, Wales and Scotland, have specialised in the forestry market for over 45 years and sells over 100 woodlands a year.

Oswestry Chamber of Commerce

The Oswestry Connection
Oswestry businesses working together

BUSINESS EVENT

The Wynnstay Hotel

Wednesday 9th October 4pm - 8pm

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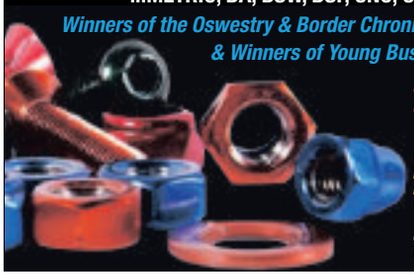

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Oswestry businesses working together

Make a connection at event to unite town's businesses

Choice of seminars on offer to visitors

Seminar sessions and speakers

- Discover how the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) plans to drive and deliver economic growth in Oswestry and hear how the £98m allocated to the LEP by the European Union will contribute towards the area's key growth priorities from Mandy Thorn, Chair, Shropshire Business Board
- Hear how Oswestry Chamber of Commerce and the town council are working to deliver a sustainable future – and get the very latest update on Oswestry's town centre Christmas
- Learn life saving tips from the West Midlands Ambulance Service and find out how Oswestry town centre businesses are Keeping Oswestry Alive in conjunction with the British Heart Foundation and the *Oswestry & Border Chronicle*.
- Find out from UK Trade & Investment how exporting can help grow your business
- Meet the team behind the *Oswestry & Border Chronicle* and unlock exclusive preferential advertising and editorial offers … only at The Oswestry Connection Business Event.

The Wynnstay Hotel, Oswestry, is the venue for the Oswestry Connection Business Event.

Some of Oswestry's leading businesses will be on hand to answer queries and give advice.

Oswestry Chamber of Commerce

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

MEMBERS of Oswestry's business community won't get a better chance to network this year than at The Oswestry Connection Business Event.

by Graham Breeze

The event takes place at the Wynnstay Hotel on Wednesday October 9 between 4pm and 8pm and is being organised by Oswestry Chamber of Commerce in association with the Oswestry & Border Chronicle.

The Oswestry Connection Business Event is the place to make new contacts and discover the solutions to some of the business sector's most pressing issues in today's tough trading conditions.

Some of Oswestry's leading businesses will be on hand to answer queries on accountancy & payroll, advertising, apprenticeships, commercial law, design & print, HR, IT, PR & Marketing, property, retailing, telecomms, technology, training and web design.

A top adviser from UK Trade & Investment will also be available to talk to manufacturing business owners and service companies about export opportunities and offer advice on exporting for growth.

Oswestry Chamber of Commerce has one simple goal - to maximise all opportunities to promote and advance Oswestry and the surrounding districts at every level.

The progressive chamber is keen to positively influence decision making within the town for the well-being of all businesses and the town as a whole.

Deals and discounts on offer at event

A HOST of exclusive deals, discounts and special offers will be given to The Oswestry Connection Business Event visitors.

There will be complimentary refreshments available from he award-winning Natural Welsh Water's stand.

Chamber of Commerce chairman Heather Noble, said: "I can guarantee visitors will walk away with a host of valuable business contacts and plenty of practical tips, tools, insights and offers that will benefit their business from the moment they walk out of the room.

"This is a must-attend event for business owners interested in growing their business and managing their operation more efficiently and effectively through training, marketing, mentoring, motivating staff, finding quality local suppliers or professional business services.

"Add a clutch of great speakers and an overview of the economic health and wellbeing of Oswestry from Mandy Thorn of Marches LEP, and you have an unmissable event."

For more information find the chamber on Facebook or via **@OswestryChamber** on Twitter.

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Meet the Exhibitors

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DRE & Co Accountants: We are an independent firm of Chartered Accountants, with six offices in Shropshire, North Wales and Mid Wales. We aim to provide a friendly and professional service at a reasonable cost and pride ourselves on the close working relationships that we build with our clients. From the smallest to the largest, all of our clients are supported by a dedicated team headed up by a partner and a client manager. Tweet @DREandCo

Evastore: From our operational HQ in Park Hall, Oswestry, EvaStore offers professional document storage services in our custom built facility featuring the latest in CCTV, Access Control and Intruder & Fire Alarm monitoring systems. We also provide high resolution document scanning with integration to document management software and a confidential document shredding service, which ensures documents no longer needed are destroyed completely and securely. Tweet @documentstorage

GWR Fasteners Limited: GWR is a multi-award winning world-wide distributor of metric and imperial fasteners, and a manufacturer of special fasteners and precision components. GWR Fasteners Limited is the only company in the UK which offers a unique service, GWR Colourfast - coloured stainless steel fasteners available in black, blue red, brass and copper. The company also offers threaded bar and bar materials cut to customers' requirements. Tweet @GWRFasteners

Imagination Creation: Imagination Creation is a creative solutions business; we pride ourselves on tailoring our services to the needs of the client. We provide a wide range of design and IT solutions for any size business and any budget. Our creativity isn't limited to a basic design studio we also provide a wide range of personalised items ideal for promotions and company branding, Come and see us to find out what we can do for you! Tweet @ICDesignLtd

Ke Design: Ke-Design is an Oswestry-based innovative architectural design studio offering a full range of design services where the client is at the heart of every stage. If you are looking for a house extension; full plans or project management for a new housing or commercial development? The team at Ke-design can help. Ke-design's extensive portfolio boasts bespoke oak timber framed homes, town centre residential developments and listed-building renovations. Ke-design offers a free no-obligation initial consultation.

LJ Financial Planners: Paul is an Independent Financial Consultant and provides workshops and seminars on financial planning. Presently, He is helping local businesses and professionals implement the new Auto-enrolment rules for workplace pensions. He also provides advice on Mortgages, Pension planning, Care Fee planning, Inheritance Tax, Wills and Trust planning and Equity Release.

Marches Training: Providing a wide range of training suited both to personal learning and school based learning for education. New purpose built conference facilities available for the community to hire for meetings and training.

Moghill Web Services: Moghill Web Services will create a professional website and web presence for your business. We don't just build you a website, we will look at your complete web presence, including which social media platforms are best for you and how you can get the best out of them. We also produce effective content for your website, geared towards helping the search engines find you and converting site visitors into customers. Tweet @moghill

Morris Cook Chartered Accountants: We provide accountancy and tax services and business advice to all types of businesses and individuals. We have a dedicated payroll bureau which will deal with all your weekly/monthly/annual PAYE and the Real Time Information submissions. We sell, install, train and offer support on all SAGE accounting and payroll products. Tweet @morriscookacc

Natural Welsh Water: Whether you're looking to buy or rent water coolers we have a full range of bottled, mains filtered water coolers and coffee machines with packages perfectly tailored for the office, school, gym, factory or home. Packages start from as little as 4.60 per week so piping hot or chilled cold water on tap won't break the bank, and all of our products come with free delivery and a dedicated service office. Why not have a free trial? Tweet @ColdWaterCooler

The Oswestry Connection
Oswestry businesses working together

Oswestry Chamber of Commerce: We are a dynamic Chamber positively influencing decision making within the town for the well-being of all businesses operating in Oswestry and district. We have one simple goal - to maximise all opportunities to promote and advance Oswestry at every level. We are a strong and active voice for the business community and welcome all types and sizes of businesses from individual sole traders, medium-sized companies and national and multi-national organisations. Tweet @OswestryChamber

Shropshire Design and Print Solutions: Offering the very best quality from our award winning design team and using state-of-the-art technology, Shropshire Design and Print is based in the former Scotprint premises at Maes Y Clawdd Oswestry and can offer a full concept, design and finished product service. At Shropshire Design and Print we believe there is nothing worse than being kept waiting, so we offer a same day quote and guarantee a fast turnaround service. Tweet @sdps

The Homebuyers Friend: Domestic green deal advisor, all aspects of the "Green Deal" along with assessments and reports. Domestic Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) as required by law for all sales and lets. Tweet @homebuyfriend

The Marches School: The Marches is an outstanding, forward-thinking, innovative school, striving to ensure that young people make the very most of their learning adventure and are equipped with the skills required to prosper in the 21st Century. In September 2013, the brand new Sixth Form opened, transforming The Marches into an 11-18 school.

Walford & North Shropshire College: Walford and North Shropshire College can provide customised training solutions for your business. Come and find out about legislative tests, short awards, apprenticeships and qualifications we have to offer. We have facilities available for hire including meeting rooms, en-suite accommodation, forest school and our brand new Scholars Restaurant. Tweet @wnscollege

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The Oswestry Connection
Oswestry businesses working together

Business guru is to speak at event

Mandy Thorn will be a keynote speaker.

by Graham Breeze

MANDY Thorn, one of Shropshire most prominent figures in the world of business, will be keynote speaker at next month's Oswestry Connection Business Event.

Organised by the Oswestry Chamber of Commerce in association with the *Oswestry & Border Chronicle*, The Oswestry Connection Business Event is the place to make new contacts and discover the solutions to some of the business sector's most pressing issues in today's tough trading conditions.

Mandy Thorn is chair of the Shropshire Business Board and represents Shropshire on the board of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

She also mentors through Business Board run scheme and says of her involvement: "Being able to offer support to local businesses is key in this challenging economic climate."

As well as her work with the Shropshire Business Board Mandy is chairman of Shropshire Partners in Care and vice chainman of the National Care Association and a director of a recently formed community interest company, Social Enterprise and a Shropshire Business Ambassador

She began her working life with the National Bus Company. A career in marketing and communications followed, in Birmingham, London and Johannesburg.

Mandy joined the family business in late 1993, initially setting up and managing a domiciliary care business and then gradually taking over the management of the care home businesses. The business, now a limited company known as Marches Care Ltd, is one of the most established care businesses in Shropshire.

Mandy took over as managing director in 2003. Since then she has built the largest care home in Shropshire which opened in 2007 and has seen the company triple in size.

Speakers lined up for series of seminars

David Preston

David Lee-Birch

Terry Foster

Seminar Session Timings

4:45pm – 5pm:
Terry Foster from West Midlands Ambulance Service – Keeping Oswestry Alive

5pm – 5:30pm:
UK Trade & Investment – Exporting for Growth

5:45pm – 6pm:
David Lee-Birch and Marcus Evans from Oswestry & Border Chronicle – The Chronicle Business Club

6:15pm – 6:45pm:
Mandy Thorn from Shropshire Business Board/Marches LEP – delivering Growth and Prosperity in Oswestry & The Marches

7pm – 7:30pm:
David Preston and Heather Noble from Oswestry Town Council and Oswestry Chamber of Commerce – Working in Partnership for Oswestry

7:30pm – 7:45pm
Terry Foster from West Midlands Ambulance Service – Keeping Oswestry Alive

Marcus Evans

Heather Noble

The Jools Payne Partnership

Member Oswestry Chamber of Commerce

The Oswestry Connection
Oswestry businesses working together

THE OSWESTRY CONNECTION BUSINESS EVENT

The Jools Payne Partnership is proud to support The Oswestry Connection Seminar Sessions

4:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Meet Jools and the team on the Chamber stand.

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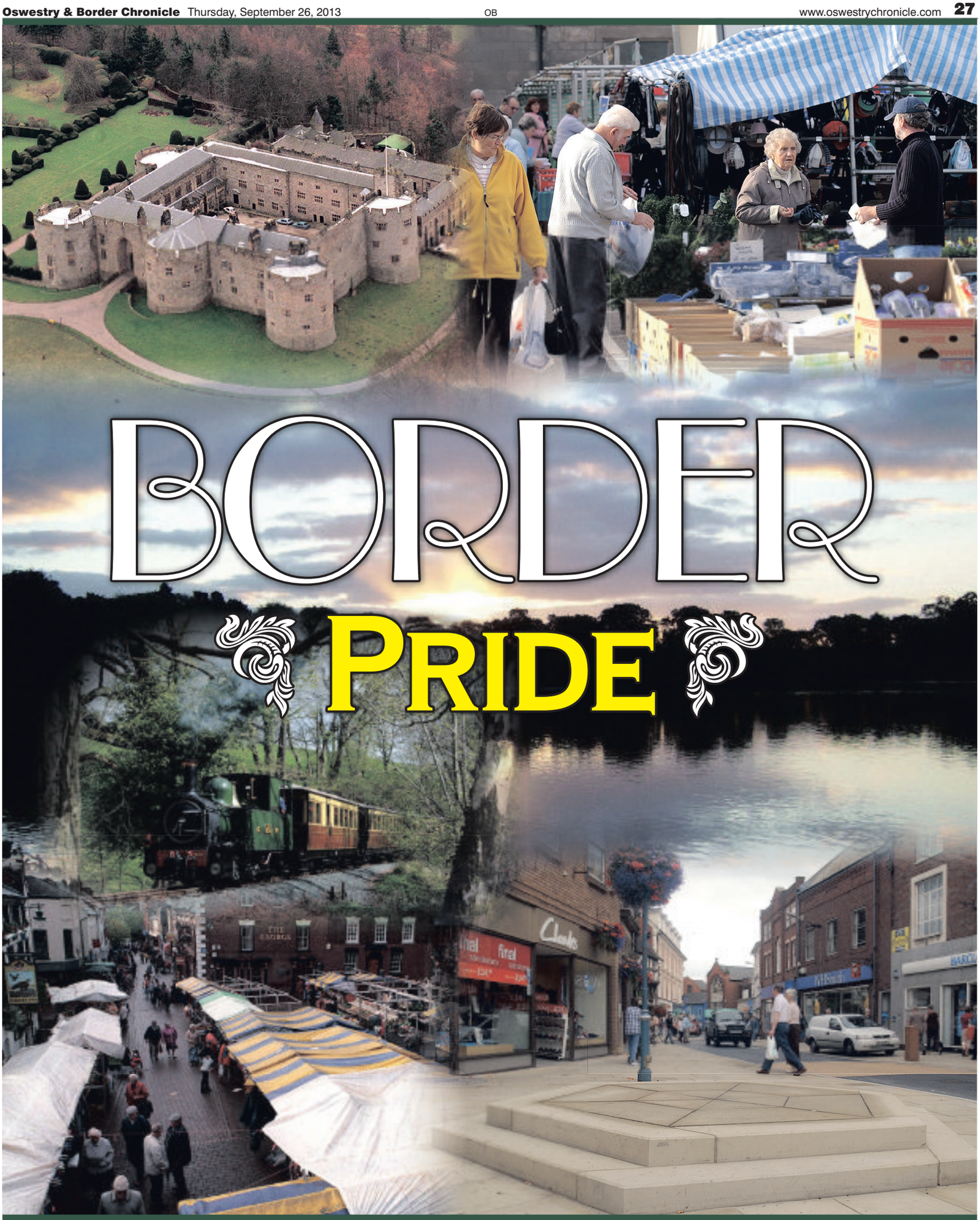

A Four Page Oswestry & Border Chronicle Full Colour Supplement

BORDER PRIDE

Injury clinic taking care of triathlon competitors

Shrewsbury Town Football Club will be using the physio clinic services of PML in Oswestry. With some of the equipment was Shrewsbury town physio, Chris Skitt.

TRIATHLON is one of Britain's fastest growing sports – but the endurance element means athletes must take exceptional care of themselves, an Oswestry-based sports injury clinic said.

The PML Lab, a purpose-built human performance and assessment centre in Willow Street, Oswestry, aims to provide athletes of all standards and disciplines with access to the best treatment, equipment and advice to improve their performance.

Advertisement feature

The specialist clinic has teamed up with Dr Jon Baker from Palmares and Aberystwyth University to create bespoke and detailed training programmes based on power outputs and also VO2 max testing data.

In the past few years, the facility has seen a growing number of triathletes asking for help and advice.

"Shropshire with its beautiful countryside makes for the perfect training ground for triathletes and we've really noticed an increase in the number of people taking up the sport," said Jon Pither, PML Lab executive director. "It's so important for these athletes to take time to look after their bodies.

"We can look at putting together a winter training plan, which is so important to keep on top of fitness levels. We also include precision hydration to monitor sweat sodium levels and resistance to cramping in endurance events.

"It may be the end of the triathlon season but it certainly shouldn't be the end of training."

For more information or to arrange a consultation, contact 0870 246 1888 or email **thelab@pml.tel**

Town's new hair salon gets ready to open doors

Advertisement feature

MAJOR Extensions, a new hair salon for Oswestry, will open its doors to the public for the first time next Saturday.

Stacey Laundy has worked from her home salon and as a mobile hairdresser for four years, during which time she has built up both her client base and a reputation as a hair extension technician.

Now she is opening a new salon at 2a Oswald Road, Oswestry.

Although she was already qualified as a hair extension technician, she went to college to begin her training as a hairdresser and has successfully completed level one. She is currently studying for level two.

Demands

Stacey is now moving one step up and opening her salon in Oswestry, meeting both public and client demands.

Business is still mostly appointment only although the salon will be open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays for clients to be able to look and purchase the hair, wigs, buns, ponytails and accessories on offer.

"This is what Oswestry so needs," said Stacey.

"If girls or ladies want to have that change of appearance for that special day it means a trip to Chester or Liverpool – but now it is on the doorstep."

Anyone who books an appointment for weaved in or clip-in hair extensions on the opening day will receive a 10 per cent discount – and there will also be a raffle on opening day for the opportunity to win free weaved or clip in extensions.

For more information or to book an appointment, contact 07792 828558, e-mail **majorextensions@hotmail.co.uk** or visit the website at **www.majorextensions.co.uk**

Regular client Lara Stephens (left) with Stacey. She is in the finals of Miss Crown and Glory and will be attending the opening day, October 5, to help raise money for her chosen charity, The Hospice Of The Good Shepherd in Cheshire.

thelab
sports injury & performance clinic

the lab is a purpose built human performance and assessment centre featuring the latest technology and equipment backed by world class staff

the concept

The concept of the Lab is to provide a comprehensive facility where athletes of all standards and disciplines can get access to the very best treatment, equipment and advice to improve their performance or get help to achieve personal goals.

Improving human performance is not about just one element, not about one discipline of medicine, sport science or one type of therapy. It is about many and the holistic approach will ensure the optimum outcome. By talking to you, measuring and assessing you, we are able to find out an awful lot about you and then decide on a programme of improvement, injury prevention or performance maintenance.

location

The Lab is located in the beautiful market town of Oswestry on the North Shropshire/North Wales Borders. We are just over an hour from Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham by road. Why not make a short holiday of your trip to the Lab and enjoy some of the best hill walking, climbing, cycling, canoeing to name but a few of the activities that are right on our doorstep.

We are able to provide a range of accommodation locally from B&B, to conventional hotels, Spa Hotels and Luxury Boutique Hotels hidden away.

The Lab is part of the Malthouse, a beautifully restored former Maltings which retains many of the period features of the original building. The high windows to prevent theft of Barley also means that it is secure and safe from prying eyes.

We are also able to provide secure garaged parking on site.

For further information or to arrange a consultation then please contact The Lab
telephone 0870 246 1888
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Raffle on opening day for a chance to win free weaved or clip in extensions (T&C apply)

BORDER PRIDE

Solar power partnership taken up by funeral home

Advertisement feature

AUBREY Kirkham Funeral Directors has recently partnered with local supplier Sky Energy to install 16 solar panels and one solar inverter, a direct current output unit, to its dedicated funeral home at Four Crosses.

This has helped reduce its impact on the environment as well as increasing its sustainability.

Aubrey Kirkham said: "We've always been deeply committed to helping the environment, and with the topic becoming of ever-growing concern, we wanted to play our part in further reducing our carbon footprint whilst increasing sustainable energy production.

Convert

"We've already had some really positive feedback from the local community, and are keen to have them installed at our other properties too over the next few months."

The Solar PV Panels are a photovoltaic system which uses one or more solar panels to convert the sun's radiation into energy, and then electricity, with an output of 4kW. The system consists of the highest quality all black mono crystalline modules, and an energy monitor which allows the firm to see exactly what it is generating anywhere through a wireless monitoring system.

Helen Morris of Sky Energy Installations Ltd, explained: "Many people think that solar panels require hot, sunny weather, but this is not the case, as the modern photovoltaic panels can produce electricity in all weather conditions. "The longevity and certainty of the government schemes are continuing to provide a strong and sustainable foundation for growth within the solar sector, and we're thrilled Aubrey Kirkham Funeral Directors have taken this huge step in helping the environment."

The solar panels installed by Aubrey Kirkham (inset) at his funeral home in Four Crosses.

Young musicians enjoy successful Australian tour

Brian Stone with the young musicians from Shropshire who visited Australia.

OSWESTRY percussion teacher Brian Stone has again taken his group of young musicians on a successful tour of Australia.

The recently completed tour is a landmark for the ensemble as not only is it the seventh tour down under it is also the last time Mr Stone will lead the group.

His daughter Claire will lead the group in future allowing Brian more time to exploit his dancing and poetry skills and teach a little less.

The tour visited Syndey, Adelaide, Tasmania, Melbourne and Hong Kong, performing 12 concerts, 14 workshops and a radio broadcast, including a second place in the percussion ensemble section of the South Street International Music Competition in Ballarat.

The group performs around Britain and were able to show Australia how well our young musicians perform and behave. The group of seven, aged 13 to 19, visited the Opera House, climbed Sydney Harbour Bridge and went down a gold mine as well as meeting indigenous animals. "Our country can be proud of these young people," Brian said.

Advertisement feature

Soundless

by Brian Stone

The sound of you is now gone,
It is no longer here,
it's other sounds besides your voice,
that makes me shed a tear.

That gentle rhythm as you sleep,
so smooth and reassuring,
has left a gap in my cold bed,
no longer so alluring.
The bedroom has a silence now,
that signals separation,
lotions, creams, a nail file too,
such girlie preparation.

And then those looks of yours that said
an avalanche of sound,
just being there to radiate love,
I'm missing all year round.

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I can write a personal poem for you for any special occasion, bereavement, humour, thanks,current affairs, and expression of love.

For more information call Brian Stone: 01691 652956

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BORDER PRIDE

Delicious cake tempts customers on border

Advertisement Feature

SEVENTH Heaven Tea Rooms is real wonder in a superb setting in Chirk Bank, right on the Welsh border.

There are chickens, ducks and peacocks wandering freely in the grounds and visitors are invited to enjoy vintage teas, freshly ground coffee and locally homemade cakes.

A sumptuous afternoon tea with all the trimmings is soon to be offered at the venue. The tea room has a delicate vintage feel to it, with old dressers, reupholstered chairs, hand-sewn table cloths and dainty china tea cups.

Staff prepare to serve some of the delicious cakes at Seventh Heaven tea rooms.

Breathable

Cakes are served with vintage pastry forks to complete the whole picture.

Freshly ground coffee is also on sale in breathable coffee bags prices starting at £2.75 for 250g.

These bags will be included in their hampers along with the hot chocolate sticks, coffee bean sweets, chocolates, biscuits, jams and chutneys.

Our Welsh gifts suitable for Christmas presents include delicately carved wooden Welsh lovespoons, Welsh slate gifts and homeware.

We have a delightful selection of locally made ceramics uniquely made by Victoria Crompton.

There is also a selection of elegant amber jewellery to suit all tastes with a collection growing all the time.

Their coffee Christmas bags and hampers are on sale now ranging from jute bags filled with coffees, jams and chutneys up to large boxed coffee collection hampers.

Afternoon teas will be served at Seventh Heaven from Monday, September 30.

The afternoon tea menu will include a selection of sandwiches (including salmon with cucumber and egg with cress), mini quiche, scone, cakes and a selection of teas. The cost is £12 per person.

Phil Davies, owner of Meadow View Windows, of Welshpool and Shrewsbury.

Attention to detail crucial for window firm products

Advertisement feature

INDIVIDUALITY, quality, durability and high performance are the very features of all products supplied and installed by Meadow View Windows.

Beautiful windows, doors and conservatories are well-made and have been installed by experts to exacting standards for over 15 years throughout Mid Wales and Shropshire.

At Meadow View Windows, which has stores in Welshpool and Shrewsbury, the over-riding objective is to satisfy customers through high standards of workmanship and excellent service and with very careful attention to every little detail.

Customers are important to Meadow View and are therefore much valued.

The Meadow View range of windows and doors offer all you would expect from a quality system – reduced noise, greater comfort, better insulation, minimal maintenance, aesthetically pleasing appearance and enhanced security.

In short, the product range offers you peace of mind – but even more it represents a sound investment in your property.

With over 30 years of experience within the building and window industry Phil Davies oversees the job from design, survey and order to the complete installation and final inspection.

"Meadow View Windows' company ethos has always been based on my personal honesty and honour," he said. "To some, I'm sure, it sounds old fashioned but I have absolutely no intention of changing something that is contributing to the company's ongoing success.

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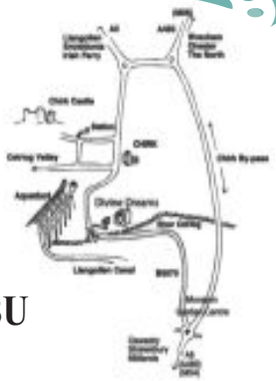

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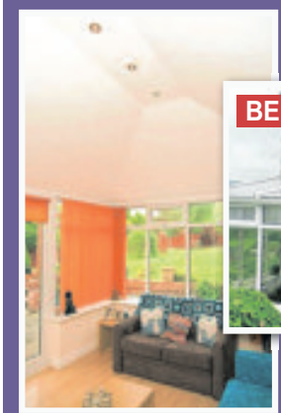

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The Oswestry Connection
Oswestry businesses working together

Three trainees join law firm

New trainees Amanda Berekdar, Elizabeth Farrell and Kimberley Roberts.

THREE new trainee solicitors have embarked on the first step of their legal career having successfully secured training contracts with Oswestry law firm Lanyon Bowdler.

Amanda Berekdar, Elizabeth Farrell and Kimberley Roberts began their training at the beginning of September. Amanda and Kimberley's first seat will be in the clinical negligence department, with Elizabeth joining the personal injury team.

The three newcomers were formally welcomed to the firm during a 'meet and greet' lunch hosted by the partners. Their arrival takes the total number of trainees in the firm to seven.

Head of family and training partner Colin Spanner said: "It's an extremely difficult task to shortlist so many applicants for interview, and then to choose two or three out of so many excellent candidates to offer a training contract to.

"We receive well over 200 applications each year, so a good academic record is vital. We go back as far as GCSEs and A-levels, but obviously a good degree and Legal Practice Course grade are the most important criteria during the selection process."

Lanyon Bowdler is one of Shropshire's largest law firms with 23 partners and in the region of 200 experienced staff, the firm is able to offer legal advice throughout both counties from local offices.

The head office is situated in Shrewsbury at Abbey Lawn Business Park, a further four offices are located in Hereford, Ludlow, Oswestry and Telford.

Chamber membership 'helped firm to grow'

by Graham Breeze

A WEBSITE developer says joining Oswestry Chamber of Commerce has helped her business to grow.

Fiona Barnes of Moghill Web Services says joining the organisation has proved much more than a networking opportunity and has helped her to grow her order books.

"I joined Oswestry Chamber in 2011 when I started my business and it was one of my first forays into networking," she said.

"It has however turned out to be so much more than networking for my business.

"It was recommended to me by a fellow Oswestry business person that Chamber would be a good thing to get involved with and to connect with other businesses in the town.

"I have made some very useful connections and raised the profile of my business as well as having learned useful and interesting things from the various speakers at the meetings.

"It has given me the opportunity of connecting with similar businesses to me in terms of size and industry which is great for sharing ideas and issues.

"I am now the secretary of the management committee and whilst it is a lot of work to fit in to my already busy life, I find it a very rewarding role to be able to help other business people in Oswestry to connect with others and grow their businesses."

To find out more about what the Chamber can do for you, go along to the Oswestry Connection Business Event or go along to the monthly meetings at The Wynnstay Hotel on Church Street at 6pm.

The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Patrick and Fiona Barnes of Moghill with apprentice Tim Ord.

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The Oswestry Connection
Oswestry businesses working together

Extension plans for pub after makeover

A PUB near Oswestry which was given a major makeover at the start of the year has proved so popular with visitors that it is to extend its car park.

While other pubs are shutting up and down the county The Poachers Pocket, just outside Weston Rhyn, has been given planning permission to create an extra 22 parking spaces to cope with the increase in trade since its reopening at Easter.

Marstons, which owns the pub, hopes that the extra parking will also be used by visitors to the Llangollen Canal, which runs past the pub, and to the nearby World Heritage Site.

Manager Christopher Sweeney said the additional parking space was especially needed at weekends. "It's been very busy right from the week of reopening," he said.

"Within two weeks we put in the plans for the extra car parking. There is an overflow car park for the World Heritage Site but it's still not enough."

Currently the car park has 56 spaces plus two disabled bays, but 22 new spaces will be created from an area of rough land, with trees planted to screen it from the road.

Business expanding after building four more units

A FOUR Crosses business has spent £750,000 building three industrial units.

Northern Industrial Battery Services (NiBS) Ltd, which is based on the Four Crosses Business Park, is expanding after taking on clients from across the UK, Europe and Asia.

The company supplies and charges industrial batteries and it says it plans to hold an open to day to unveil its work to the public later this month.

Chris Gilliard, managing director, said the company, which was formed in 1992, was going from strength to strength. He added: "This new development will house our production offices, warehouse and testing facilities together in one complex.

by Andrew Morris

"This will allow us to streamline our work, while also providing an enormous opportunity to develop our business and help secure our future.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in particular our staff for all their hard work and commitment over this difficult project and we also thank the local community for its support and tolerance whilst this work has been undertaken."

Exhibition

Mr Gilliard said the company also holds a standby power conference and exhibition for companies across the UK.

He added: "We operate in many different industries including nuclear processing plants, power stations, petrochemical industries, hospitals, scientific installations and data centres. We cover the whole of the UK, Europe and also supply into the Middle East.

NiBS is opening the doors of its head office and new buildings on September 26 from 6pm to 8pm for any members of the public who would like to find out more.

The company was unavailable to say how many jobs had been created.

College given quality mark

WALFORD and North Shropshire College has been accredited by the Matrix Standard – the UK quality standard for information, advice and guidance services.

It is a challenging, outcome-based standard that is not only a benchmark of the quality of services an organisation provides, but a business improvement tool.

The Matrix Standard consists of four elements, focusing on the management and delivery of the service. Continuous improvement is at the heart of the Matrix Standard.

The assessor identified many strengths of the college, including the flexible, supportive and effective service from student services as well as other staff, and the effective use of marketing materials and other technologies to inform and support learners.

Lighting the way for scheme

Mr Tumnus, left, played by Cazz Jones of The Performing Arts at Woods, Hills & Tracks and Ben Knowles, operations director at The British Ironwork Centre.

THE BRITISH Ironworks Centre at Oswestry has continued to support local organisations by donating a Victorian lamp post to the Woods, Hills & Tracks scheme.

The scheme is a registered charity for disabled people and those with special needs, which aims to serve the needs of the disadvantaged in the community.

One of the objectives of the charity is to provide outdoor dance and movement projects in a rural setting. Another is to give disabled people the opportunity to explore the countryside.

Anyone wishing to learn more about the charity should visit: www.woods-hills-tracks.com

MP helps bring ban to an end

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Owen Paterson had helped lever a deal to bring to an end an 18-year ban on British beef and lamb in Russia.

The trade deal, expected to be worth up to £100 million over three years, has been finalised in Moscow by the Shropshire MP and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich

It includes a £7 million contract for lamb meat and opens the door to a further £2 million contract for beef offal the first time the red meat has been allowed into the country since the BSE scare of the mid 1990s.

Speaking from Moscow, Mr Paterson said: "I'm thrilled that our negotiations with Russia have proved successful.

"This is a credit to our vets and producers who have all worked amazingly hard to meet the required export standards. The gates of opportunity are now well and truly open."

Workshop dates

BRACELET-making workshops for children and teenagers were held at the renamed Oswestry Bead Workshop on Saturday. Formerly know as Bright Beadz, the store in Leg Street has a new name to celebrate its second anniversary.

The Oswestry Connection
Oswestry businesses working together

Mike's latest venture off to a flying start

IN JUNE Last year, local entrepreneur Mike Webb guided his company Natural Welsh Water to lift the jewel in the Shropshire business community's crown by winning The Shropshire Business of The Year Award.

Now, a little over 12 months later Mike's latest venture, Shropshire Design and Print Solutions is off to a flying start.

Mike aims to bring the same quality of value and service to the design and print world that made Natural Welsh Water such a phenomenal success over the last few years.

Innovative

His plan is for this latest venture to become the most exciting and innovative design and print company in Shropshire and has put a vastly experienced team together that has many years' experience in providing innovative designs that will give its customers the wow factor to make them stand out from the crowd.

Mike said: "I am really excited about this new venture. We have put together an extremely talented team that can take ideas and really deliver something special"

"Our brand new studio is based on the Maes Y Clawdd Industrial Estate in Oswestry in the premises previously occupied by Scotprint."

He said: "We have totally refurbished and redesigned the premises and can cater for everything from business cards to full vehicle wraps and even have a T-shirt printing and embroidery service. We have the latest technology, a great team, and will go that extra mile to service our customers and make excellence affordable, so I can see a great future for Shropshire Design and Print."

Mike Webb is pictured with Mayor of Oswestry Chris Scofield at the opening of Design and Print.

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Billcar Precision Engineering Ltd has over many years developed a sound reputation serving local, national and international companies.

Starting in 1981, Bill Pryce started Billcar, which is based on Battlefield in Shrewsbury, as a sole trader. Since then the company has gone from strength to strength, now employing more than 40 staff with plans to continue investing in the latest technology and the training for staff, both existing and new, in order to utilise the full potential of both staff and the latest machinery.

Lagun

The latest machine to arrive is the Lagun GCM 8, with 4 axis machining. It has the capacity to mill X=8m (bed length) Y=1200m (width) Z= 2m (height) and 48 tons in weight on the bed.

Complementing the new machine is the existing Geminis GH5 G4 CNC lathe with the ability to turn 1.2m in diameter and 6m in length into various forms.

For smaller machined parts the company has numerous CNC and manual milling and turning machines all of which give the capacity to produce prototypes up to large batches.

To ensure quality and accuracy to work carried out Billcar uses the Faro Gauge Plus CMM Portable Arm giving measurements of up to 1.2m and the ability to give accurate reading in our inspection room and on the shopfloor.

This full QA inspection and report can be certified to show the project meets the required specification.

Together with a high-quality service, short lead times and the latest technology, Billcar Precision Engineering Ltd has built up a good client base with Mr Pryce MD quoting: "We have continued to build on our existing client base in numerous sectors including agricultural, aerospace, automotive, rail, power suppliers and quarry to name a few.

Although some elements of the business have never changed because we have always prided ourselves on the highest level of service to all our customers whether the local farmer or an international company, and are able to complete orders to tight deadlines with the help of our dedicated team."

Mr Pryce was also keen to stress that Billcar has not forgotten its humble beginnings with small-part manufacturing, in-house and mobile repairs and engine reconditioning continuing to play an integral role in the business.

With a focus on the 4x4 market, specialising in the Nissan Navara, staff at Billcar have spent considerable time researching and perfecting the repair, modification and full engine rebuild of the vehicle, and have built up a well respected reputation and are now one of the market leaders in this area.

In addition, the firm stocks a large range of ferrous and non ferrous material including structural steels, high carbon, tool, hydraulic and stainless steels and bronze, aluminium, brass, cast iron and plastics - to name a few.

Breakdown

Also offering fabrication, hydraulic and a 24-hour breakdown service, Billcar can deliver and collect to suit all client needs.

Mr Pryce added: "Billcar has the capacity and expertise to offer services from the design stage using our CAD CAM system through to production, assembly, fitting and quality inspection, giving a one-stop solution for all engineering, manufacturing and repair projects."

For more information on the business contact 01743 450044, visit www.billcar.co.uk or www.billcarengineering.co.uk for 4x4s and engine reconditioning.

Advertisement Feature

COOL NEW PLAN FOR RENTAL FIRM

It's not just the weather that's turning cold at Burnt Tree Vehicle Rental as the company announces its plans to expand into the refrigerated vehicle sector.

The UK's leading independent commercial vehicle rental provider last week announced their new venture with the launch of 'Refrigerental', a brand-new dedicated temperature controlled vehicle rental and contract hire operation that is available through all the company's locations in England, Scotland and Wales.

'Refrigerental' was officially launched at the TCS&D Show in Peterborough last week and it represents a significant investment by Burnt Tree in a comprehensive range of brand-new, state-of-the-art temperature controlled rental vehicles.

The fleet will range from car derived vans and panel vans, right up to 18tonne and 26tonne rigid trucks, covering both single and multi-temperature applications.

Graham Roberts, Shropshire general manager commented: "we feel this is a great opportunity to expand our vehicle rental business into the temperature controlled market sector and we are confident that Refrigerental will offer both current and new customers a totally fresh approach to the rental of refrigerated vans and trucks."

Although Refrigerental will be a brand-new entrant in the temperature controlled vehicle rental sector, because it is backed by Burnt Tree, with over 30 years proven experience and heritage, it is quite unique in the current commercial vehicle market.

Mr Roberts went on to say: "Our performance driven philosophy is part and parcel of the Refrigerental offering so anyone renting refrigerated vehicles from us will automatically benefit from Burnt Tree's unique long term approach to vehicle rental".

And with early success in the form of a new contract with Morrison's supermarkets which has taken a fleet of 7.5t box trucks on long-term hire things are already hotting up for the Shrewsbury-based business.

Billcar Precision Engineering Ltd

www.billcar.co.uk
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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Revamped three-storey home includes annexe

A tastefully extended, much improved period home with an annexe is on the market.
Number 14 Victoria Road, Oswestry, includes a spacious purpose built garage and covered garden room, and is priced at offers around £305,000 with no chain.
The period end terraced property comprises an entrance lobby, reception hall, living room with logburner, dining room with panelled walls, and spacious breakfast kitchen with a door down to the basement.
There is also a utility/annexe entrance, shower room, annexe kitchen/dining room, landing, three bedrooms, bathroom, annexe living room/bedroom, and second floor attic room (used as a master bedroom).
A loft space accessed from an inner landing could be suitable for conversion, subject to the necessary consents.
To the front, a wide gated driveway leads to a large garage with storage over, a garden room, patio and workshop/store.
For details call Richmond Harvey on 01691 654222 or visit www.richmondharvey.com

Period property in beautiful spot with its own woodland

On the market with Halls for £279,950, number 2 Isfryn, Meifod, is a beautifully presented black and white semi-detached family home, set in landscaped gardens with superb views and about a third of an acre of amenity woodland.
The spacious accommodation comprises a side entrance hall, reception room with fireplace and attractive ceiling beams, large kitchen/dining room, rear entrance lobby, utility, three first floor bedrooms and a recently fitted bathroom.
The loft space has been converted to make a fourth bedroom with ensuite shower room, making an ideal guest/teenager's bedroom. As well as extensive lawned gardens there is also a parking/turning area and a detached stone garage.
For more details call Halls on 01938 555552 or visit www.hallsestateagents.co.uk

Refurbished rural retreat has more than two acres of land

Set in an elevated rural position, The Granary at Pant Farm, Glyn Ceiriog, is a completely refurbished semi-detached home with a paddock of around 2.3 acres, additional gardens and a wooded copse. It is for sale with Bowen Son & Watson at £275,000. It has an open plan living room, conservatory with balconies, a snug, two bedrooms, bathroom, walk-in wardrobe, shower room, oil central heating, workshop, car port and storage/stabling. Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 772443 or visit www.bowensonwatson.co.uk for details.

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RICS

NEW - NO CHAIN

Pant £160,000

- A deceptively spacious 3 bedroom detached bungalow with basement garage all set within terraced gardens with excellent views over the surrounding countryside. ● Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Large Conservatory, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom and Shower room.
- The large terraced gardens lead upto woodland whilst there is ample off road parking.
- The property benefits from uPVC windows and Oil central heating throughout.

GUIDE PRICE - £4000 PER ACRE

LAND AT LLANSANTFFRAID £4,000

- 48.88 acres (19.70 ha) or thereabouts of pastureland and woodland situated just outside the village of Llansantffraid
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NEW - NO CHAIN

Ifton Fields St. Martins £124,995

- A well appointed and deceptively spacious Semi-Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Cloakroom, Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- uPVC double glazing and gas central heating. EPC Rating D
- Private rear garden together with a large side garden
- Which could accommodate an extension to the property (subject to planning permission).

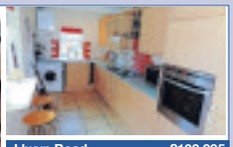
NEW PRICE - NO CHAIN

Marsland Close St. Martins £164,995

- A spacious Detached 3 Bedroom Bungalow situated in a quiet residential area within walking distance of the centre of the popular village of St Martins.
- The property has a good sized private rear garden together with Garage and Carport.
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, 3 Excellent Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Separate WC.
- The property also benefits from oil fired central heating, uPVC double glazing, fascia's and barges. EPC Rating E

Llys Close Oswestry £114,950

- A well presented 2 bedroom Mid-Terrace Property close to the centre of the town
- Lounge, well fitted Kitchen/Dining Room with patio doors leading to the garden,
- 2 Bedrooms and a fitted Bathroom
- Recently fitted decked area together with a lawned garden, garden shed & designated parking
- Gas C/H and D/G All fitted blinds, curtain poles & light fittings are included. EPC Rating C

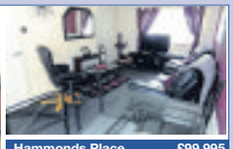


Llwyn Road Oswestry £109,995

- A deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace Property situated within walking distance of town centre
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fully Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms and a Large Bathroom
- Private garden with a large garden shed with light & power connected
- Gas fired central heating and part uPVC D/G. EPC rating D

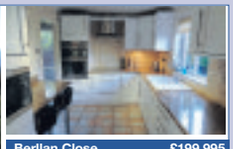
Cottage Fields St. Martins £229,995

- A well appointed and spacious Detached Three Bedroom Bungalow situated within a popular area within walking distance of the centre of the village
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory
- Bedroom 1 with en-suite shower, 2 further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom.
- Garage and Workshop, Gardens
- Full gas fired central heating and D/G. EPC Rating D



Hammonds Place Gobowen £99,995

- A spacious 2 Bedroom End-Terrace Property situated in a popular residential area in the village of Gobowen.
- The property has the advantage of a large plot with a concrete driveway to the fore providing ample off-road parking
- Lounge, Conservatory and Kitchen on the ground floor and 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom on the first floor
- Outside the property has a large brick storage building and adjoining open fronted storage shed together with a private rear garden
- uPVC double glazing windows throughout and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

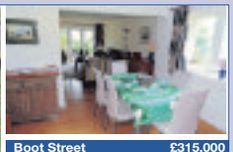


Berllan Close Weston Rhyn £199,995

- A superbly appointed Detached Family House situated in an ideal location within walking distance of the centre of the popular village of Weston Rhyn which has a host of facilities and amenities including the Shropshire Union Canal
- Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Family Room, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utilty Room, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Bedroom Four/Study
- Large private gardens and ample off road parking. uPVC Double Glazing & Oil central heating. EPC Rating D

Watkin Drive Oswestry £395,000

- A most impressive and spacious Detached House set within an exclusive and spacious development for only five executive homes
- Reception Hall, Guest Cloaks, Sitting Rm with bay, Large Conservatory
- Separate Dining Rm, Study, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Utility
- Gallery Landing, 4 Bedrooms, Shower Rm & Luxury Family Bathrm
- Gas C/H, D/G, delightful gardens, double garage. EPC Rating D



Boot Street Whittington £315,000

- A deceptively spacious Detached Bungalow which has been extended and finished to high standards within large well stocked gardens in a private location yet close to the centre of the picturesque village of Whittington
- Open plan Lounge/Dining Rm, adjoining Study, well fitted Kitchen/ Breakfast Rm, Utility
- 3 Double Bedrooms (2 En-Suite) an additional Shower Rm
- Patio and seating veranda to the front of the property, off road parking
- Hardwood D/G, recently fitted Gas C/H system. EPC Rating D

NEW BUILD - NO CHAIN

Chirk Road Gobowen £214,995

- A Brand New Detached 4 Bedroom Family Home situated in the popular village of Gobowen
- The property has a full 10 year NHBC Guarantee and carpeting throughout
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Large Lounge opening into Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances, Separate Dining Area, Conservatory, Utility
- 4 Excellent Bedrooms (master en-suite) and Luxury Family Bathroom
- Ample parking, a deceptively spacious rear garden & patio area. Gas C/H. D/G. Predicted Energy Assessment B

Morda Oswestry £500,000

- A substantial Double fronted Georgian style property retains a host of original features, has been extensively modernised by the current owners
- Recently fitted Kitchen, Drawing Rm, Study, Sun Rm, Utility Rm, Cellars, 4 large Beds, Family Bathrm & Separate Shower Rm. EPC Rating F
- Substantial stone/brick built outbuildings which could be used for a host of future uses (subject to planning consents). Further brick built Building is currently used as a Games Rm
- Standing in an elevated position overlooking landscaped gardens with views, large patio, extends to approx 0.72 acre (0.29 ha)

Croeswylan Lane Oswestry £239,950

- A most comfortably appointed and spacious Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Rear Lobby/Utility/Cloaks together with Four Excellent Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom and En Suite. Gas fired central heating, double glazing
- Sun patio and delightful enclosed gardens to the rear. Ample parking to fore
- EPC Rating C

NO CHAIN

Hengoed Nr Oswestry £435,000

- A beautifully presented & luxuriously appointed barn conversion with landscaped gardens
- Farmhse Kitchen with Oil Fired Aga range, adjoining Dining Rm & Utility
- Drawing Rm has glazed panels to 1 elevation with views & smaller Living Rm
- Master Bedroom, En-suite & Guest Bedrm, 3 Beds & Family Bathrm
- Large well stocked garden to front, large parking area & Dble Garage Block
- Enclosed Patio area with views across open countryside. EPC Rating F

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NEW NO CHAIN

Cabin Lane, Oswestry

A most spacious FOUR bedroom detached dormer bungalow with large gardens & garage.

- 4 Bedroom (2 Master Suites)
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Garage & Ample Parking
- Gardens
- UPVC DG & CH
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry Price: £259,950

NEW NO CHAIN

Upper Church Street, Oswestry

A most handsome Georgian townhouse offers adaptable and spacious accommodation with immediate rental income if required.

- 3 Bed House & 1 Bed Ground Floor Annex
- Gas Central Heating
- Walking Distance To Town
- Gardens
- Viewing Advised
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry Price: £174,950

NEW NO CHAIN

Ceiriog Villa, Glyn Ceiriog

A three storey family home in need of some modernisation situated in a pleasant village location adjacent to the River Ceiriog.

- 5 Bedrooms
- 4 Reception Rooms
- 2 Kitchens
- 2 Bathrooms
- Gardens & Parking
- Current EPC Rating F

Contact Oswestry Price: £160,000

NEW NO CHAIN

Church Cottages, Four Crosses

This charming semi detached cottage benefits from superb open views across farmland and to the Breidden Hills and boasts lovely gardens.

- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Gardens
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry Price: £171,500

NEW NO CHAIN

Aspen Grange, Weston Rhyn

A well presented and much improved three bedroomed semi-detached property with parking, garage and attractively presented gardens

- 3 Bedroom
- Newly Fitted Dining Kitchen
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage & Parking
- Current EPC Rating C

Contact Oswestry Price: £149,950

NEW NO CHAIN

Wren Cottage, Coalpit Lane, Weston Rhyn

A three bedroom character property situated in a sought after hamlet location in close proximity to both Weston Rhyn and Selattyn

- 3 Bedroom
- 2 Receptions
- Garden & Parking
- Oil Central Heating
- Countryside Views
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry Price: £234,950

NEW NO CHAIN

Balmoral Crescent, Oswestry

This immaculate semi detached two bedroom property is an ideal investment opportunity or first time purchase.

- 2 Bedroom
- Off Road Parking For 2 Cars
- UPVC DG
- Gas CH
- Landscaped Gardens
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry Price: £119,950

NEW NO CHAIN

Dove Cottage, Llynclys

This detached dormer bungalow is South facing and benefits from open views to the Breidden Hills and to Rodney's Pillar. In need of some

- 3/4 Bedrooms
- 2/3 Receptions & Conservatory
- Double Garage & Parking
- Oil Central Heating
- Gardens
- Current EPC Rating F

Contact Oswestry Price: £240,000

NO CHAIN

Harlan House, Nr Weston Rhyn

A spacious individual 4 bedroom barn conversion in grounds extending to approx 1.8 acres.

- 4 Bedrooms
- 2/3 Reception Rooms
- Detached Outbuilding
- Garage & Parking
- Approx 1.8 Acres
- Current EPC Rating C

Contact Oswestry Price: £450,000

NO CHAIN

Bentley Drive, Oswestry

This spacious detached family home is situated in a sought after and popular residential area

- 4 Bedroom (2 With En-Suites)
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Detached Double Garage & Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Current EPC Rating C

Contact Oswestry Price: £279,950

NO CHAIN

The Old Quinta Manse, Bronygarth

A four double bedroom detached character property situated in a delightful country location.

- Elegant Reception Hall, Sitting Room
- Dining Room, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm
- Shower Room, Cellar, Four Beds, Bathroom
- Double Garage & Parking
- Gardens To Front, Side & Rear
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry Price: £350,000

NO CHAIN

Penyllan Barn, Coed Y Go

A delightful barn conversion and family home which has kept the integrity of the original building with original features being apparent

- 3/4 Bedrooms
- 1 With En-Suite & 1 With Dressing Room / Office
- 2 Receptions & Open Plan Family Dining Kitchen
- Approx 2 Acres Of Land
- Detached Barn & Parking
- Current EPC Rating C

Contact Oswestry Price: £435,000

NO CHAIN

North Road, Llanymynech

A deceptively spacious three double bedroom family home situated in a popular village location.

- 3 Double Bedrooms & Attic Room
- Living / Dining Kitchen
- Cellar
- Garden
- Parking

Contact Oswestry Price: £110,000

NO CHAIN

Parc Bronhyddon, Llansantffraid

An executive five bedroom detached family home situated in a cul-de-sac position in this popular village.

- 5 Bedroom (2 With En-Suites)
- 2 Receptions & Conservatory
- Double Garage & Parking
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Current EPC Rating C

Contact Oswestry Price: £350,000

NO CHAIN

Robins Corner, Tedsmore

This detached country style cottage dates back to the 1800's and benefits from panoramic views across the Shropshire and Cheshire Plains

- Located Down A Quiet Country Lane
- Generous Sized Cottage Gardens
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Double Garage & Parking
- Viewing Advised
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry Price: £325,000

NO CHAIN

Trederwen Lane, Arddleen

This detached cottage dates back to the early 1800s and is being sold with the benefit of a self contained annex.

- 3 Double Bedroom Cottage
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Self Contained Annex
- Quiet Country Lane Position
- Generous Sized Gardens
- Current EPC Rating F

Contact Oswestry Price: £299,950

NO CHAIN

Westview, Hengoed

An individually designed spacious detached family home offering four bedrooms and four reception rooms.

- 4 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- 4 Reception Rooms
- Set In 1.13 Acres
- Oil CH & DG
- Semi Rural Hamlet Location
- Current EPC Rating D

Contact Oswestry Price: £300,000

NO CHAIN

Elbridge, Ruyton XI Towns

This semi detached rural home is situated in a most peaceful location down a quiet country lane.

- 3 Bedroom
- Countryside Views
- Cottage Gardens
- Dating Back to 1900s
- Parking
- Current EPC Rating E

Contact Oswestry Price: £169,950

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Advertisement Feature

WAT'S MEADOW, GOBOWEN - HELP-TO-BUY OPEN WEEKEND

The Government's Help-to-Buy scheme is now available at Wat's Meadow, Gobowen, near Oswestry.

Fletcher Homes' Sales Manager Petra Cadman said: "The Help to Buy scheme is great news for new home buyers and is available on all house types at Wat's Meadow from the two-bedroom Sutton to the top of the range four bedroom detached properties".

Help-to-Buy has been designed to assist homebuyers who were struggling to save the large deposits required by mortgage lenders. With Help-to-Buy the government lend up to 20% of the purchase price of the property on an equity linked second mortgage, so the homebuyer only needs to put down a 5% deposit and arrange a 75% first mortgage. As well as counting towards the deposit, the government's loan is interest free for the first five years and then carries a very modest interest rate of 1.75% per annum linked to RPI.

"It also means that interest rates on your main mortgage are likely to be much lower and the monthly repayments much more affordable than with the larger mortgages that were previously necessary. For instance, someone buying a three-bedroom 'Leaton' for £139,995 will need a deposit of only £7,000 and could expect mortgage repayments of around £530.00 on a 25 year mortgage".

Fletcher Homes are working with The Mortgage Helpline to arrange the best mortgages for homebuyers at Wat's Meadow and mortgage approval can usually be obtained in just a few hours.

Wat's Meadow is a development of 124 brand new 2, 3 and 4 bedroom family homes just a few minutes walk from the rail station in Gobowen and several properties have been sold and occupied.

"If you have a property to sell, we can help you to buy a brand new Fletcher home through our Assisted Purchase Plan, where we will arrange for your property to be valued and put on the market and we will pay your agent's fees and make sure that they prioritise your sale".

"Buying a new home has never been easier".

Wat's Meadow Sales Centre is open from Thursday through to Monday from 11.00am to 5.00pm Call 01691 679490 or 01743 267020.

Wat's Meadow, Gobowen, Oswestry, SY11 3JS

A mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes within walking distance of Gobowen village and direct rail links to Chester.

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Talk to our representative for full details. Illustration shows The Sutton at Wat's Meadow and example lifestyle images. YOUR HOME MAY BE AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT. Mortgage offer is subject to application and status. Limited offer available on selected plots only. Subject to contract.

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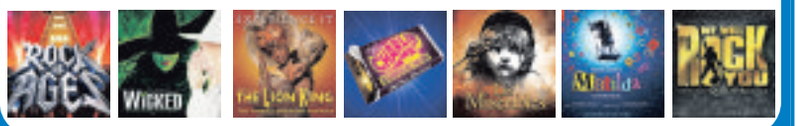

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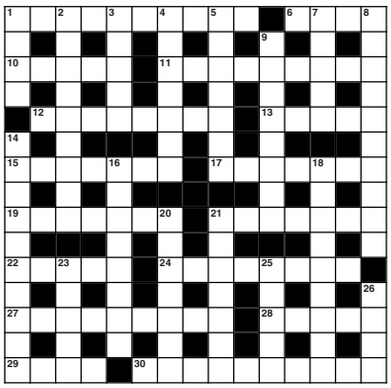

Compiled by Roger F. Squires

ACROSS

1 Frank gains the new seat - these wanted it too (10)
6 Thought I'd get an early start (4)
10 Number follow a new cure that's harsh (5)
11 Such a rite is suited to a solemn sacrament (9)
12 Playful recreation which takes a deal to get started (4,4)
13 Mails sorted in the Mohammedan world (5)
15 A ground organisation unlikely to be caught napping (2,5)
17 Some trickery doesn't amount to much, we hear (7)
19 It may appear smart on top of a door or window (7)
21 Hackneyed tour now re-organised (7)
22 Get us included in a try out when out of practice (5)
24 Remarking on a mixture of gin and tonic (8)
27 It sounds a beastly form of warfare (9)
28 Broken grid I fixed (5)
29 A great sea power (4)
30 Truth stands between man or criminal (10)

DOWN

1 Bird associated with a crow (4)
2 Broken rule again leads to pain (9)
3 I had been a conductor, but became lazy (5)
4 Be a clumsy fat lover of Heloise (7)
5 They make pictures of Chester, perhaps (7)
7 Not only soldiers may be bored by it (5)
8 They work unaided to produce fruit in a fitful sun (10)
9 It's obvious it's a list of cargo (8)
14 Not left out at the start, being outspoken (10)
16 They test metal for a ship, taking years perhaps (8)
18 Usual wish for a happy retirement? (4,5)
20 Paper used for wrapping a cigar (7)
21 Dismissed with anger - it's a scandal (7)
23 The going rate for methedrine? (5)
25 It's about time (5)
26 River that is Polish or German (4)

LAST WEEKS RESULTS

Across: 1 Clover, 4 Rheostat, 9 In line, 10 Prestige, 12 Step, 13 Wilde, 14 Road, 17 Filled the gap, 20 Reservations, 23 Arch, 24 Sower, 25 Welt, 28 Diamonds, 29 Evince, 30 Larboard, 31 Bridle.

Down: 1 Cries off, 2 Oil wells, 3 Erne, 5 Hors d'oeuvres, 6 Oast, 7 Tailor, 8 Trendy, 11 Little wonder, 15 Revel, 16 Wants, 18 Governed, 19 As it were, 21 Sandal, 22 Eclair, 26 Polo, 27 Ivor.

FARMING 01691 668094

Early subsidy payments for farmers hit by snow

Sheep in a snow covered field just off the A488 between Clun and Knighton.

FARMERS in Mid Wales who lost livestock in heavy snow during the spring are set to receive subsidy payments six weeks early, it has been announced.

Alun Davies, the Welsh Assembly's Natural Resources Minister, announced that about 3,300 farmers will receive up to half their single farm subsidy from October 16.

But farmers on the Shropshire side of the border will have to wait until the end of November to receive their payouts.

Farmers across Shropshire and Mid Wales lost scores of sheep which were buried in inches of snow which fell last winter. Malcolm Roberts, who farms at Maesbury, near Oswestry, said at the time he had lost 20 sheep and up to 60 lambs during the winter months.

Farmers who meet certain criteria are given the single payment subsidy each year – but farmers in Wales are now set to receive their annual payment early to "ease some of the pressures" they are under because of the bad weather.

The news has been welcomed by NFU Cymru, which says its members are continuing to suffer because of the loss of livestock in the blizzard conditions.

Ed Bailey, NFU Cymru president said: "Clearly I am pleased that the minister has taken action to help alleviate some of the serious cash flow problems that farmers in these areas of Wales are facing as a result of the horrendous weather earlier this year."

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FLU TIME AGAIN

If you are aged 65 or over or have a chronic disease such as heart disease diabetes lung disease asthma or are pregnant, you may be entitled to the flu vaccine

Please contact your surgery for more information as to when the clinics will be held

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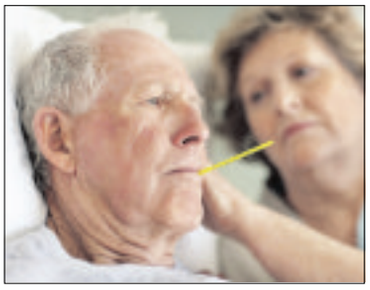
Tel: 01691 655844
Thursday 26th September, Thursday 3rd October, Thursday 10th October between 8am - 5.30pm
An appointment needs to be made

CAXTON SURGERY
Tel: 01691 653600
Saturday 5th October, Saturday 19th October and Saturday 2nd November between 8.10am - 11am
An appointment needs to be made

CAMBRIAN SURGERY
Tel: 01691 654349
Week commencing 30th September - 17th October, most Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime, late mornings to early afternoon, Monday evenings 6pm - 8pm and Saturday morning 19th October
An appointment needs to be made

Flu is an infectious and common viral illness spread by coughs and sneezes.



It's not the same as the common cold but is caused by a different group of viruses. Symptoms tend to be more severe and last for longer.

You can catch flu - short for influenza - all year round, but it is especially common in winter, which is why it is also known as 'seasonal flu'.

Flu causes a sudden high temperature, headache and general aches and pains, tiredness and sore throat. You can also lose your appetite, feel nauseous and have a cough.

Flu symptoms can make you feel so exhausted and unwell that you have to stay in bed and rest until you feel better.

If you are otherwise fit and healthy, there is usually no need to see a doctor if you have flu-like symptoms. The best remedy is to rest at home, keep warm and drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration.

You can take paracetamol or ibuprofen to lower a high temperature and relieve aches.

You should see a doctor if you have flu-like symptoms and you: are 65 or over are pregnant, have a long-term medical condition such as diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, kidney or neurological disease, have a weakened immune system

This is because flu can be more serious for you, and your doctor may want to prescribe antiviral medication.

Antiviral medicine can lessen the symptoms of flu and shorten its duration, but treatment needs to start soon after flu symptoms have begun to be effective.

Antibiotics are of no use in the treatment of flu because it is caused by a virus and not bacteria.

If you have flu, you generally start to feel ill within a few days of being infected.

Symptoms peak after two to three days and you should begin to feel much better after a week or so, although you may feel tired for much longer.

You are usually infectious - that is able to pass on flu to others - a day before your symptoms start, and for a further five or six days. Children and people with weaker immune systems, such as cancer patients, may remain infectious for longer.

Elderly people and anyone with certain long-term medical conditions are more likely to have a bad case of flu, and are also more likely to develop a serious complication such as a chest infection.

In the UK, about 600 people a year die from a complication of seasonal flu. This rises to around 13,000 during an epidemic.

The flu virus is spread in small droplets of fluid coughed or sneezed into the air by an infected person. These droplets can travel a metre or so and infect anyone within range who breathes them in.

Flu can also spread if someone with the virus transfers it on their fingers. For example, if you have flu and you touch your nose or eyes and then touch someone else, you may pass the virus on to them.

Similarly if you have flu and touch common hard surfaces such as door handles, with unwashed hands, then other people who touch the surface after you can pick up the infection.

You can stop yourself catching flu in the first place or spreading it to others by being careful with your hygiene.

Always wash your hands regularly with soap and water and regularly clean surfaces such as your keyboard, telephone and door handles to get rid of germs.

Use tissues to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze put used tissues in a bin as soon as possible.

You can also help stop the spread of flu if you avoid all unnecessary contact with other people while you're infectious. You should stay off work until you are no longer infectious and feeling better. Source/ www.nhs.co.uk

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Musicians invited to take part in festival

YOUNG musicians of all standards are being invited to take part in next year's Oswestry Youth Music Festival. The festival will run from February 27 to March 2 with classes from beginners to experts, for singers, instrumentalists, soloists and bands.

David Clough of Oswestry Town Council, who is helping to organise the festival, said: "The festival is part of the British and European Federation of Festivals and we are committed to running a practise event to a very high standard.

"It attracts a large numbers of entrants from all over the North Wales/ West Midlands border area, and the standard just gets better from year to year."

It is open to musicians aged up to 25 and the adjudicators offer help and advice to each competitor. Every entrant will receive a certificate and badge or sticker.

The festival was first held as part of the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations of 1977, and now attracts entries from Shropshire, Cheshire, Wrexham and north and mid Wales.

For a schedule contact Mr Clough on (01691) 680222 or visit **www.oswestry-tc.gov.uk/council-services/oswestry-youth-music-festival.html**

The closing date for entries is January 17.

Linda celebrates 22nd spot in big world triathlon event

LINDA Arthan crossed the finish line at the World Triathlon Championships on London's Olympic course with the biggest smile that anyone could have on her face.

She was 22nd in the world, an incredible achievement for someone who only took up the sport in her mid 40s.

Just a week later and Linda was helping to put children at Ellesmere Primary School through their paces at the weekly 'Kids Bootcamp' after school club. They had just as large smiles as she made keeping fit fun. Her aim to inspire others to enjoy sport as much as she does is, she says, part of the Olympic Legacy for Britain.

She retired last year as a full time teacher at the Marches School in Oswestry and has since been concentrating more on her sport and simply enjoying life.

In 2012 she flew to Auckland in New Zealand in 2012 to represent Britain at the World Triathlon Championships in the Olympic distance before an extended holiday in a camper van around the country.

But she says the thrill of taking part in London this year at the age of 58, was so much greater.

"I was there on my own and although the GB team was brilliant, it was certainly not the same as being in the UK," she said.

Here I had 18 members of the family and friends who travelled down to London to cheer me on, it was incredible.

Although she has always been a keen sportswoman playing netball and hockey and taking up running to marathon level, Linda had never thought of herself as a triathlete. "I took part in the London Marathon either side of the millennium and I started to think about how whether it was sensible to concentrate on only one sport.

"I was worried that, if I had an injury, I would have nothing to fall back on. But I really wanted to carry on doing endurance sport. I started to do more cycling and swimming and just fell in love with the triathlon."

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

with Pam Griffin

Linda's enthusiasm for life is as infectious as her smile. She likes nothing better than encouraging others to get involved in the past times that she loves, be it sport, singing or gardening, something she does at her home near St Martins, Oswestry.

Last weekend, just days after the triathlon world championships, she accepted an invitation to be a part of the Oswestry Community Games in Cae Glas Park because of her role as a torch bearer in the run up to last year's Olympic Games.

"It was a great weekend. There were all kinds of sports, tennis, bowls, gymnastics and even hoopla. We had three Olympic torch bearers and lots of Gamesmakers. It proved just how important sport is in this area."

Ever busy, Linda already has her next challenge lined up. She is giving her support to Danni Evans at the Ellesmere gym, Basecamp Heath and Fitness, who is encouraging those at the gym to take part in a 10 kilometre run in Telford in December.

Linda Arthan crossed the finish line at the World Triathlon Championships.

Bird lover passing on tips at art class

ARTIST, illustrator and bird lover Matt Sewell will be passing on tips and talking about his feathered friends at a one-off art class in Oswestry.

Mr Sewell, the author of Our Garden Birds and the newly-released Our Songbirds, will hold the class at Booka bookshop in Church Street, on October 3.

Following the class, Matt will be signing copies of his books. Each book will be signed and drawn in by Matt with any particular bird or message. Both of the books are filled with watercolour pictures and quirky descriptions of British birds.

People attending on the night should arrive at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Tickets cost £5, which is redeemable against the price of Our Songbirds. Tickets must be booked in advance in store or by calling (01691) 662244.

Anyone who is unable to attend the event but would like a signed and dedicated copy of Our Songbirds can contact the shop.

Date postponed

THE "Play Day" planned by Oswestry Sinfonia in Oswestry on Saturday has had to postponed. Rearrangements will be advertised soon and rehearsals are on Friday evenings, 7.30pm at the Parish Centre, St Oswalds.

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THE ARTS 01691 668094

Chance to learn about child services on offer

Musician and storyteller Sally Tonge entertains parents and youngsters at a previous event

THE work carried out by children's centres will be outlined during a fun event.

by Graham Breeze

A professional storyteller will be on hand to bring tales to life with music, puppets and play at the event at Shropshire Council's Sure Start centre in Morda near Oswestry next month.

Families with children under five can join in with fun stories, rhymes and songs, play with a selection of toys, both indoor and outdoor, and meet other families at the event on October 7. The Songs, Stories and Rhymes event will take place at the children's centre, on the Morda CE Primary School site, from 9.15am to 11.15am.

Parents can also get advice and information about children's centre membership, and what other groups and services are available.

Joyce Barrow, local Shropshire councillor for St Oswald, said: "I would encourage parents of young children to take advantage of what promises to be a really enjoyable and fun morning.

"It is also an opportunity to make new friends in the community."

Free Stay and Play sessions for families with children under five also take place at the Morda children's centre on Mondays, from 9.15am to 11.30am, and Wednesdays, from 1pm to 3p.

For further information call (01691) 656513, or for more information about children's centre services go to **shropshire.gov.uk/surestartchildrencentres.nsf.**

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GIG GUIDE 01691 668094

Music performances to suit all tastes this week

THERE'S plenty to look forward to over this next few days as the schedule is jammed with shows and gigs worth your time.

The main pick this week is reggae artist Mykal Moziah who will be performing at The Ironworks on Saturday night. Combining traditional reggae with folk and rock influences, he plays music you can't help but get drawn into.

His songs are filled with lyrics that emphasise positive themes, such as community and self belief, and can be heard on the recently released and long awaited debut album *Love and Muzik*.

There will also be a DJ set from Scott Sibbick. The gig starts at 9pm with entry costing £5.

Kicking off the weekend is the talented Joe Seager, who will be performing at The Lowefield, Marton on Friday.

Joe, who started singing and playing guitar at age 12, has gigged across the UK as well as performing a number of times on BBC Radio.

Describing himself as a "one man band", he puts his own spin on popular covers, both old and new including songs by James Morrison and Oasis. The gig starts at 8pm and is free entry.

An open mic night will be taking place in Oswestry on Friday at Wilsons Wine Bar. The evening will start at 8pm and is being organised by PurpleFish.

Singer songwriter Steve Edwards will be performing at The Royal Oak, Welshpool.

VJ Lonsdale from PurpleFish said: "This will be our fourth open mic event. If you enjoy live music then be sure to come on down.

"The quality of performers has been really high so it's always a good night and of course if you'd like to perform yourself then do get in touch."

To book a slot, contact VJ on 07964 726407 or **www.purplefish.org.uk**

Singer songwriter Steve Edwards will be performing at The Royal Oak, Welshpool on Friday night. A bit of a local hero, Steve plays covers by bands like The Jam and U2, as well as unique takes on some popular hits. The gig starts at 9pm and is free entry.

On Saturday night, The Hermon, Oswestry, will be holding an event called Light and Dark, a mixture of music, visual arts, spoken word, dance and film, all centred around the themes of light and dark.

The event will also feature a special performance by Two Dogs, of cult electronic band Pram. The event starts at 8pm, with tickets costing £5.

Starting Monday the Attfield Theatre Company will be staging performances of Alan Ayckbourn's sci-fi drama *Communicating Doors*. Set in a dystopian future, the play follows Poopay, who is on the run from a violent psychopath.

With her life in danger, she passes through a hotel and finds herself 20 years in the past. Now she must alter the past to help save herself in the future.

Running until October 5, the play starts at 7.45pm and will be held at The Guildhall, Oswestry. For information on tickets, ring the box office on 01691 680222.

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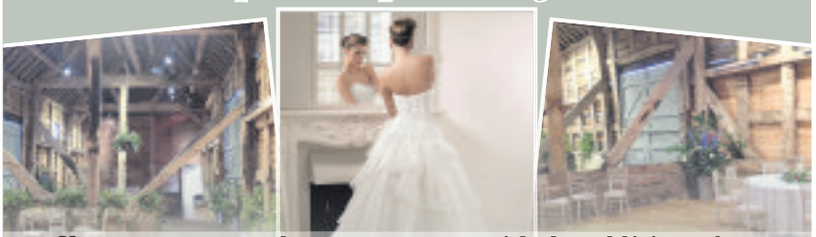

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NOSTALGIA

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School's second trip to Barbados

The tour programme cover.

The 2005 tour, with the young Jack Fox.

Work experience with some of the local children.

by Toby Neal

WHOA! We're going to Barbados. Again.

Last week we shone the spotlight on the 2001 tour to Barbados by girls from the Marches School in Oswestry, who took on teams over there in netball matches.

But it was not the only visit, as only four years later another group from The Marches went there again, as explained by PE and dance teacher Anne Cielecki, who has since retired.

Second time round the return visit was with a different group.

Anne said: "This time Linda Arthan joined the trip along with her sister Liz as our medic and Sarah Barton. We had to work equally hard to raise the money to subsidise the trip. This time however, I wanted the older group to do their work experience week at the Barbados Sports Camp. This was truly the most amazing experience for us all. The girls were allocated groups of children and they taught dance, football, hockey, and netball sessions to the local children as part of their work experience. We also played competitive games.

"As a thank you from the Barbados Sports Council we were invited to join the summer camp on a cruise along the west coast of Barbados – an incredible experience!"

As with the girls from the 2001 trip, she says this group of youngsters also excelled themselves and are now settling into a myriad of careers.

"I have since retired and often reflect on these incredible school trips. I have lots of amazing photographs."

Happily Anne has loaned us a selection, together with the itinerary. For any of those girls who have forgotten, here is a brief summary:

Friday, July 15, 2005: Rendezvous at school 5am. Leave Manchester airport 9.55am. Reset watches to Barbados time - 4.55am. Arrive in the sunny Caribbean 1.30pm. 3pm, arrive Coconut Court. Beach 3.45pm.

July 16: 7am, Breakfast in rooms. Sun cream on. Beach, take towel, drink, sunglasses, sun cream, lip balm. 12.30pm, meet at reception for trip to Harrison's Cave.

July 17: 7am, early morning swim after breakfast. Snorkelling safari. 1.30pm, trip to Museum of Barbados.

Entertainment

July 18: 9.30am, arrive for netball matches and workshops. 3pm, return, relax on beach. 8pm, dance performance at Coconut Court. 10.30pm, bed.

July 19: Evening barbecue, entertainment around the pool with band "Boogie Time".

July 20: Rest day. 5.30pm, shower, get dolled up for Plantation Dinner and Dance show.

July 21: Same as Monday (i.e, the 18th). Pizza for tea.

July 22: Same as Monday. Farewells and exchanges with summer camp. 6.30pm, travel to Oistins to local street fish fry.

Saturday July 23: Lie-in for those who want to. 9.30am, depart for Carlisle Bay snorkelling safari.

July 24: Rest day. Possible trip to Holetown/Bridgetown souvenir shopping.

July 25: 9am, bike or horse ride or walk up to Carlisle Bay. 2pm, beach, hotel activities. 8pm, dance performance, Coconut Court.

July 26: Top up the sun tan day. Dance workshop at 5pm.

July 27: Last morning - rooms to be emptied by noon. Onto the beach once the rooms are ready. 2pm, be ready to say farewell. 5.30pm, depart, reset watches to 10.30pm British time.

Thursday July 28: Arrive Manchester 7am. 9am (the itinerary actually gave 9pm, which must be a mistake), return to school for hugs and kisses. Hang onto those memories. It's all over.

The Oswestry girls are, from left, Laura Jones, Emma Grimshaw, Becky Jones, Liz Arthan, Bea Hughes, Beth Jones, Linda Arthan.

£1.7m is achieved at auction for farm

A 229-ACRE farm near Welshpool has been sold for £1.7million auctioneers have announced.

The strong demand for farms and land was illustrated as Whitehouse Farm at Buttington sold for £200,000 above its guide price, to a local farmer, at the auction conducted by auctioneers Halls in Shrewsbury.

"The sale of Whitehouse Farm illustrates the current strong demand for farms and agricultural land," said Halls' chairman Peter Willcock.

"There is plenty of interest in agricultural properties and we have been delighted to sell some high quality farms and land so far this year."

Last month, Halls also sold Red House Farm at Aberhafesp, near Newtown, a 454-acre livestock, dairy and arable farm in the Severn Valley, for £6.35 million by private auction.

Whitehouse Farm, which was sold on behalf of Mr M. C. Herbert, included a substantial four bedroomed farmhouse, a range of farm buildings and grassland extending from the valley bottom to the edge of the Long Mountain.

The farm had been let in parts for many years but was amalgamated for the auction.

Pleased at garden glimpse of feisty feathered friend

FOLLOWING the recent drought of birds in the garden, I was pleasantly surprised to see the return of a few of our feathered friends over the last week.

ON THE WILD SIDE

by Ben Waddams

The highlight was undoubtedly a 'mud dabbler'. A what? Ok, how about a 'mud stopper'? Nope? A 'nut hacker' then?

All the above are names for a bird that, however popular with birders, is actually a fairly under-researched species: the nuthatch.

There are 24 different types of nuthatches in the world and our bird has by far the widest distribution, as it breeds continually from Portugal to Korea and Japan.

It is in fact Sweden and Belgium from which most of our knowledge about this bird comes.

Descriptive

However, the old English names above are at least descriptive of their habits.

Nut hacker is fairly self-explanatory and comes from the bird's method of opening up nuts by jamming them into a crevice then hammering at them.

But you'll have to study your Nuthatch a bit closer to discover its namesake's affinity for mud.

Come spring, the species has a curious habit of plastering mud around the entrance hole to its nest.

This seems to be done regardless of whether the bird has excavated much of its own hole or if it's satisfied to take over a disused one, namely that of a great spotted woodpecker.

The rather good thing about nuthatches, or whatever you want to call them, is that they can't really be confused with any other bird.

Unlike the brown and drab treecreeper, which only moves up the trunk of a tree, nuthatches will move both up and down.

They used to be restricted largely to south-eastern England but the 20th century witnessed a spread to the north, with breeding in Scotland first confirmed in 1989. And what's more, they've now moved into our gardens.

It must be admitted that if you're really keen to have nuthatches in your back yard, you're best off planting a mature oak tree there, but they will occasionally visit gardens offering sunflower seeds with not an oak to be seen.

This said, if they don't choose your nest box to rear their young, it's likely they will have found their natural nursery: said oak.

And since they are a remarkably sedentary bird, seldom moving far from where they hatched, it's likely there's an oak tree within a kilometre of your garden, whether you can see it or not.

I really quite admire nuthatches; they are bold and aggressive birds, able to stand their ground when larger species such as starlings attempt to intimidate them.

But there's good reason for this courage. They have a habit of taking food from the bird table to store elsewhere.

As mentioned, their favourite titbits seem to be sunflower seeds and this can lead to sunflowers sprouting in expected places.

Territorial

Yet most of the time they remember where they've stashed their fare and this explains their strong territorial tendencies.

The fact that food is stored within the territory strengthens the need to defend it.

So if you're lucky enough, as I fleetingly was this week, to have a mud dabbler, stopper or nut hacker in your garden, feel blessed for they are not seen there all that often.

No British-ringed individuals have ever been recovered abroad, while similarly no birds ringed on the Continent have been found here. A truly loyal little British bird.

A selection of Ben's artwork can be seen in the Boathouse Restaurant, Ellesmere.

In addition, his wildlife art can be viewed online by visiting the website ***www.waddams.web.com***

Nuthatch Study **painted in oils by Ben Waddams**

Advice on bullying at event on safety

ADVICE on issues ranging from bullying and the internet to drugs and stranger danger was given to more than 400 youngsters from Shropshire and Mid Wales through a unique community safety programme.

The Lifeline event was organised by the Rotary Club of Oswestry and held at Oswestry Showground. Over five days the showground hosted more than 400 year six pupils from 23 schools.

The programme involved the youngsters spending an intensive half-day experiencing 10 scenarios designed to help them face some of the dangers they will increasingly encounter as they become more independent.

Rotarian John Neave, event co-ordinator, said: "Along with our partners from the police, fire service, coastguard, Red Cross, NFU and various volunteers we cover bullying, the internet, cycling, drugs, and stranger danger as well as the risks associated with the coast, farm environments, fire hazards, railways and crossing busy roads."

One of the presenters, Red Cross first aid learning coordinator for Shropshire, Jo Rickard, said: "I think LifeLine is a tremendous learning opportunity for the Year 6 pupils and it is exactly the sort of work I joined the Red Cross to do."

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MARKETS

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Welshpool livestock market

September 23

OTMS (43)

A smaller entry of Over thirty month cattle sold to average 116.58ppkg for the older cows, Under 48 month old heifers sold to 147ppkg, cows at 48 – 72 months sold to an average of 122.48ppkg, a bull at 72 months or older sold to 120ppkg. A Limousin cow weighing 763kg from RD & SL Parry, Ty Uchar Llyn achieved the top market price of £1022.42; therefore Mr Parry receives the Briarwood Products Limited Prize of £25 for the highest price older cow sold on the day. A Charolais cow weighing 722kg made £924.16 from ER & GT Matthews & Son, Killowent. An under 48 month old Charolais weighed 646kg from DSW Jones, Llwynderw made £956.08. A Limousin bull weighing 931kg made £1117.20 from R Evans & Partners, Hafodyfoel.

FAT CATTLE (12)

12 fat cattle this week were sold, the heifers reached a 191ppkg average, steers 232ppkg average and the bulls averaged 194ppkg. A Limousin steer weighing 564kg achieved a price of 257ppkg, presented by G Bound & Son, Cefn Bach. The Briarwood Products Limited Prize of £25 for the highest price pence per kilo goes to G Bound & Son, Cefn Bach. Others in the class achieved 254ppkg, which was also a Limousin heifer from G Bound & Son, Cefn Bach. A medium weight Charolais bull from JW Power, Maesygraig reached a top price of 194ppkg.

PRIME LAMBS (4208)

An entry of 4208 prime lambs, achieving an average of 166ppkg.

Lights (539) to 173ppkg from RE PEate, 6 Nantllachar. Others to 169ppkg from EG Edwards & Co, Bryncelyn. Average of 163ppkg.

Standards (951) to 184ppkg from NG & GG Davies, Trawsgelli. Others to 174ppkg from WS Pritchard, Meadow Vale . Average of 160ppkg.

Medium's (1913) to 207ppkg from Geddes & Co, 4 Camlad Cottages. Others to 190ppkg from C Wilding, Bretchel Farm. Average of 168ppkg

Heavies (756) to 185ppkg from DP Casewell, Tanrhiw. Others to 181ppkg from T & B Williams, Cilmawr. Average of 167ppkg

Over Weights (49) to 177ppkg from DES & ER Bickerton, Lloran Uchaf. Other to 174ppkg from DP Casewell, Tanrhiw. Average of 162ppkg.

CULL EWE (2641)

There were a large number of entries this week seeing an average price of £41.31 for the ewes and £56 for the rams. Cull ewes topped the sale this week with a price of £109 from DR Owen & Sons, Sandilands Farm; others reached £92.50 from JM Rowlands, Dolwen Farm. Rams achieved a top price of £85.50 from PJ & DE Pryce, Brook House. Weekly sale of cull sheep to follow immediately after the sale of prime lambs at approx 12 noon.

STORE EWES AND STORE LAMBS.

Store Lambs: An increased entry of Store lambs this week with an increased average reflecting the better quality of lambs on offer. Texel X Theave lambs from HM Roberts, Penybryn sold to £59 while Mixed and Clean Texel X lambs from WM Wozencraft reached £62. Overall top price was achieved by CE & R Emberton for Texel X Tup lambs.

Store Ewes: Another large entry of breeding ewes met by a ringside packed with prospective purchasers despite the NSA Ram Sale, with yearling ewes from WN & MJ Wyke, Capsall Farm selling to £122. Better quality ewes were easier to sell with yearling ewes selling from £100 to £120. As Found Mule Ewes from E Davies & Co, Red House sold to a top of £60 while Full Mouth Mule ewes from M Hughes, Rhosaflo sold to £81 with Full Mouth Welsh ewes from SM Davies, Cwmbrain selling to £33.

More store lambs required with entries expected to increase to meet the demand from a number of buyers. Same again next Monday with store lambs being sold from 10:30am with breeding ewes at 11am followed by rams.

Dairy

An entry of 23 dairy cattle in Welshpool met with a firmer trade. Two cracking heifers sired by Garret & Reece from new vendors GR & KA Mason Ltd, Walkmills Farm sold for £2050 and £2000. A Fennshall Silver second calver presented by KS Jones & Sons, Lane Farm sold for £2000. A Regancrest Durham Sam sired heifer from WA & EM Morris, Maestanyglwden made £1850. Two heifers from the Myllin herd of Lewis Bros, Green Hall sold for £1740 and £1780. Two British Friesian heifers from DN Willaims, Gilfach giving 5 gallon+/day made £1580 and £1640. Six cows from I Cadwalader, Glanhafren sold to a top of £1660 for a third calver born May 2009. Five bulling heifers, four sired by Hayden and one by McCormick, presented by WR Taylor & Son, Talwrn sold to average just over £800. A breakdown of the prices achieved were as follows:- 2000+ 3 lots; 1800-2000 1 lot; 1600-1800 7 lots; 1400-1600 3 lots; 1200-1400 3 lots; <1200 7 lots.

Forthcoming Sales.

Saturday 28th September, Yearling Ewes, Lleyn Sheep Society Sale, Southdown Sheep Society Sale, Oxford Down Sheep Breeders Sale and Coloured and Native Breeds Sheep Sale.

Monday 30th September, Store Cattle and Cows and Calves

Thursday 3rd October, Pedigree Ram Sale.

Monday 7th October, Multi breed, Non MV Accredited Rams.

Thursday 10th October, Welsh Mule Sheep (Ewes and Ewe Lambs)

Friday, 11th October, Dairy Dispersal Sale from the Munlyn herd.

Monday 14th October, Multi breed, MV Accredited Rams

Tuesday, 15th October, Store Cattle, Organic Stock & Weanlings.

Thursday 17th October, Welsh Half Bred Sheep & All Theave Lambs.

Welshpool Livestock Sales report on a successful Welsh Mule Sale on behalf of the Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders Association.

Mule Sale
September 11

Wednesday, 11th September saw 9320 Mule ewes go through the ring, with the ring surrounded by keen purchasers and vendors. The average on the day for yearling ewes reached £130.65 and a top price which was achieved by D I Roberts & Son, Stingwern, where his pen of 25 yearling mule ewes reached £190. Others in the day achieved £187 from H & E Powell, Llwyngwilym.

Other top prices are as follows;

£187, £186, £184, £180,£172. £170 from H & E Powell, Llwyngwilym

£170 from D I Roberts, Stingwern

£164, £162, Price & Price, Cwm Earl.

6738 Ewe Lambs came through the ring on Thursday, 12th October, achieving a top price of £168 from E & SM Hughes, High Park Farm and at an average of £97.57 on the day. Others on the day achieved;

£150 from DK Williams, 1 Carnedd

£148 from J Thomas & Son, Tan House

£141 from G & A Powell, Glanmihelli

£134 was achieved by E & SM Hughes, High Park Farm.

Oswestry cattle auctions

September 18

FAT CATTLE: (92)

Another solid entry of cattle again met yet a good firm trade on all types. Saying that there was a mixed bag on offer from the very best to the very worst. Top slots hit 270p for Heifers, 234p for Steers and 233p for Bulls. Highest price in the lump was £1529 for a Steer. Bottom book of 120p for a plain friesian bull and an overall market average of 199p was achieved. If you have cattle to sell please contact the Auctioneer Jonathan Evans on 07971 002650 or the Market office.

Young Bulls (34) Overall Average 183p.

Light Bulls (7) Average 170p (£760/head) Selling to 225p from H W & D A Davies Ty Nant

Medium Bulls (19) Average 173p (£895/head) Selling to 227p from J M Edwards Lower Morton Farm

Heavy Bulls (8) Average 213p (£1255/head) Selling to 233p from R B Jones Wernddu

Steers (26) Overall Average 191.5p.

Medium Steers (9) Average 174p (£905/head) Selling to 212p from J R D Best Pentrego Farm

Heavy Steers (17) Average 199p (£1255/head) Selling to 234p from A R & E M Evison Tygwyn

Heifers (32) Overall Average 221.5p

Medium Heifers (5) Average 231p (£1055/head) Selling to 259p from R W & J L Edwards Tyn Twll

Heavy Heifers (27) Average 220p (£1215/head) Selling to 270p from Hughes Bros Penybryn

Another pleasing trade again. Keep the numbers coming and thank you all for your continued support

FAT LAMBS: (2890)

A good consistent entry of 2890 prime lambs on Wednesday 18 September 2013. The demand on the day for good continental lambs and continental tups was very keen with the lighter lambs also well; contested for. Unfortunately the standard native breed were harder sold with a variation of 35p/kg from the medium to maximum price in all three sections. The 202 light lambs averaged 164p/kg varying from 138p/kg to 171p/kg with the top call being from T A Morris & Son Pantymaen making £54 for 321.5kg lambs. The 869 standard lambs averaged 155p/kg varying from 138p/kg to 174p/kg with the top price being 174p/kg from D E & R M Williams Bronheulog making £66 for 38kg lambs. The 1373 medium lambs levelled at 163.5p/kg with a variation from 142p/kg to 180p/kg. The top price was £80 for 44kg lambs from M & S Jones Lower Forest. The 352 heavy lambs averaged 159p/kg with the top call of the day being £89.50

Superlights to 152p average 147.5p Lights to 171p average 164p, Standards to 174p average 155p, Mediums to 180p average 163.5p, Heavy's to 173p average 159p, Others to 169p average 147.5p. Overall average 161p.

FAT EWES: (1132)

A reduced entry mainly dominated by plain hill ewes met a slightly harder trade as seen nationwide with an overall average of £28. Top price was £76.50 going to a good pen of ewes from M H Evans, Moelfre. 15 rams averaged £37 with a top price of £76 going to a tup from J E & M G Evans & Sons, Bagley.

Please Note : All sheep entering the Market must be tagged.

CALVES: (100)

The largest entry for sometime selling to another variable trade with only the best creating any real competition, friesians quite significantly less. Charolais Bulls topping at £350 from Messrs Pryce Coedmawr and Messrs Clay Brook Farm. British Blue Bulls topping at £435 from Messrs Wildbore Carreghofa £300 from Messrs Henshaw Little Green Farm £288 & £280 from Messrs Edwards Tynewydd. Limousin Bulls to £298 from Messrs Roberts Ty Issa £290 (twice) & £278 from Messrs Owen Bonciau. Charolais Heifers to £300 from Messrs Pryce Coed Mawr £280 from Messrs Andrew Neuadd Uchaf. Limousin Heifers to £298 from Messrs Davies Park Mill Farm £275 from Messrs Lloyd Roberts Pennant Farm £266 from Messrs Rogers Weston Hall £264 from Messrs Roberts Ty Issa. British Blue Heifers to £288 from Messrs Ellis Henlle £285 & £278 from Messrs Henshaw Little Green Farm £275 from Messrs Edwards Ty Newydd £270 from Messrs Owen Tanycoed. Friesian Bulls to £130 from Messrs Jones Fron Farm £128 from Messrs Williams Lightwood Hall £108 from Messrs Lloyd Pentref Farm £82 from Messrs Griffiths Gerlan £82 from Messrs Evans Glaniwrch

U72 & CULL COWS: (68)

A seasonal entry of 68 OTM cattle met with a seasonal trade with Heifers selling to 156p Steers to 188p, Beef Cows to 160p Dairy Cows to 125p and Bulls to 139p with an overall average of 111p with the usual consignment of plain cows lowering the average.

STORE SHEEP: (398)

An entry of 398 breeding Ewes and Rams receiving a similar trade on most if not slightly better than some on the lighter type of Ewe. Full Mouth Welsh Ewes to £39, Full Mouth crossbred Ewes to £58, Yearling Welsh Mules to £88, Yearling crossbred to £92 Yearling Texel to £87 Welsh Lambs to £26. Charolais Rams to 260gns. Next catalogue sale of breeding sheep 2nd October entries to hand many more invited. For further details contact Wyn Morton 07866237540

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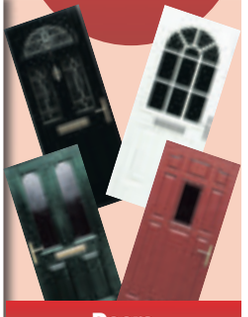

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Superb new Audi Saloon answers all the questions

Drive time with Graham Breeze

THE chatter amongst motoring journalists on route to test Audi's new A3 Saloon was mostly questioning the German manufacturer's decision to enter the sector.

Just a few minutes behind the wheel of the all-new 1.4 TFSi S Tronic Sport and the answer was clear – another gem from the Audi conveyor belt.

Winning

Filling the void between the premium family hatch and an executive saloon the new A3 Saloon goes into unchartered territory in the compact premium sector for Audi, but my bet is they will soon be winning sales from the more expensive BMW 3 series.

From launch, buyers will have the choice of a 138bhp 1.4 turbo petrol engine (which can deactivate half of its cylinders to save fuel while cruising) and a 178bhp 1.8 turbo petrol. A 148bhp 2.0 diesel will also be available, while a sub-100g/km CO2 1.6-litre diesel will follow early next year.

Today it's almost impossible to drive a newly launched car without being introduced to a sales-catching gimmick. In the Audi A3 you seamlessly deactivate half of its cylinders to save fuel while cruising.

The new Audi A3 Saloon looks set to win sales from its rivals

The interior of the new A3, which is comfortable and high quality

The 1.4 petrol switches between two and four-cylinder mode so smoothly you don't really know it's happened and the resulting fuel savings are enormous. A similar version is found in Audi's large S and RS models.

For the enthusiast that means this is an advancement of the Audi valve-lift system that varies valve stroke, it shuts down the second and third cylinders of the four-cylinder engine at low and moderate engine load during coasting.

The system operates between 1,400 and 4,000 rpm and torques up to 100Nm (73.76lb/ft). Switchover lasts 13 to 36 milliseconds, depending on engine speed.

This transition is accompanied by tweaks to fuel injection, ignition point and the throttle valve. As soon as the driver presses firmly down on the gas pedal, the cam units retract and the idle cylinders are reactivated.

This car has a top speed of 134mph, will do 0-62mph 8.4 seconds, has CO2 emissions of only 109g/km and a combined fuel figure of 60.1mpg. That means you get free road tax for the first year and pay barely anything after that and pay fewer visits to the fuel pump.

This Audi challenges traditional barriers in the sector and is the 47th model in Audi's extensive range of options.

The A3 Saloon is 15cm longer than the Sportback, which increases boot capacity by 45 litres (to 425 litres). Though the boot is more than big enough to pass the golf club test the opening is shallow making loading up a little difficult.

This may be a completely new car but is unmistakably an Audi and of course that means plenty of comfort inside too. There's no problem coping with four six-feet adults and leg room is the same as in the Sportback.

Audi has not cut back on any cost inside the cabin where everything is as classy and well appointed as on the entire company range.

The saloon comes with the latest version of Audi's MMI (multimedia interface) infotainment system as standard with the familiar central control dial so you get plenty for your money.

Behind the wheel is a comfortable place to be with lots of adjustment in both seat and steering wheel and the seat materials are of outstanding quality.

The 1.4TFSi hits the road at £23,660 but the test car included Xenon lights, a comfort package, which included auto-dimming rear mirror, a parking sensor system and cruise control.

There was also heated front seats, cloth headlining, tyre pressure monitoring, and one of the best Sat-nav systems available today – pushing the price up to £28,330.

Expect this car to take off in a big way in the UK because I think it will attract both buyers looking to downsize and those looking to move up a level.

And where will the sales come from? Probably Mercedes CLA and BMW 3 Series drivers.

Bumper to bumper

Audi A3 Saloon

Model: TFSi S Tronic
Cost: From £23,660
Top speed: 109g/km
0-62mph: 8.4 secs
Combined fuel: 60.1mph
CO2 emissions: 109g/km

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Motoring

New Civic delivers touch of 'magic'

By Bill McCarthy

HONDA has fitted 'magic seats' to its new Civic but you will find the real box of tricks under its bonnet.

Scan down the spec sheet and one figure jumps out – incredible mileage claims of 78.5 could sell a car in its own right.

The 1.6-litre engine, which is built in Swindon, is aimed purely at the European market and the hunger for low CO2 and high mpg figures. In it's publicity pack Honda boasts that the new engine can get you from to London to Paris and back twice on just one tank.

The new Civic. Honda claims a fuel consumption figure of 78.5mph

Instruments are wrapped around the driver and are all easily accessible

Saves

I didn't test that 863-mile distance but the fuel needle refused to budge on my weekly commute and only really started moving on a trip up North. The engine not only saves you a huge amount of cash on the forecourt, but also on road tax and congestion charge where applicable.

With all the focus on the engine it's easy to forget that the Civic also performs well, looks good and is brilliantly equipped. Some eco-model cars feel sluggish and uninspiring to drive, but there is a good combination of acceleration and mid-range pull behind the wheel. It's quite a big car to drive, but is still an agile performer with a smooth ride. It's also an attractive looking car with the five-door family sized model looking like it belongs on a catwalk rather than a car park.

The wrap-around glass on the front, from days of old, has gone and the mid-window mounted rear lights now jut out from the window and appear to float in the air. It still looks low to the ground and athletic with concealed rear door handles, shark-fin antenna and 16in alloy wheels.

On the inside the car has been laid out like the cockpit of a fighter jet. The instruments are wrapped around the driver and are all easily accessible and easy to use.

The six-speed gear stick sits quite high in the central well below a clever touch-screen system that houses an easy-to-use sat-nav, DAB radio and premium audio system.

All models have an Idle Stop button that can be switched on and off.

Base models come in at under £20,000 and include LED daytime running lights, climate control, CD and heated wing mirrors to name a few.

The mid-range ES model adds cruise control, a rear view reversing camera, Bluetooth hands-free and an ultrasonic alarm.

The EX tested had HDD navigation, premium sound system with subwoofer, parking sensors and heated leather seats.

Limit

Honda says it has worked hard to limit the noise inside the car, but the wind noise at motorway speeds was probably my only bug bear on this car, and that was a hard one to find.

The boot is the biggest in its class and there is loads of head and legroom for driver and passengers.

Not content with innovations in clever radar safety systems and engine turbochargers, Honda has even waved the wand with the seats. They are billed as 'magic' and lift up, fold over and lock down in one easy movement for a quick 60/40 split.

But even when somebody is sat in them there are huge spaces underneath the bases to store bulky items and there is the chance to slide through to the boot space.

In the safety stakes the Civic has been rated as one of Europe's safest cars by NCAP.

Honda is still a trailblazer in innovation and is always trying to improve fuel efficiency, performance and safety.

The launch of this clever car with smart engine is a shot across the bows of competitors like VW, Ford and Audi who may have to find a little bit of magical inspiration themselves.

Bumper to bumper

Honda Civic

Price: £23,675
Mechanical: 1,597cc, 120bhp, turbo-charged ITEC diesel engine driving front wheels via six-speed manual transmission
Max speed: 129 mph
0-62mph: 10.5 secs
Combined mpg: 78.5mpg
Insurance group: 15E
CO2 emissions: 94g/km
BiK rating: 13 per cent
Warranty: Three years/90,000-mile warranty; three years paint; 12 years anti-perforation; five years exhaust system

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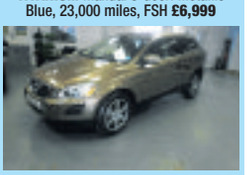

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SPORT

Edwards is now the raining champion

GARY EDWARDS retained his singles title at Oswestry Tennis Club when beating Saffron Rainey in a final that finished in torrential rain.

The weather was windy, but dry, for the first set, which saw Edwards secure a slender 6-4 advantage, before the weather deteriorated.

However, despite the wet conditions making ball-striking difficult, the players persevered with Edwards winning the second set 6-3 to defend the crown he has held for the past three years.

Earlier in the day, Huw Lloyd took the honours in a round robin format as the club held their last social tournament of the season which was followed by a barbecue lunch for members and then the singles ladder final.

Top spin

Meanwhile, the club's third mixed team had their first fixture of the season away at Market Drayton and just missed out on victory.

Debutants David Armstrong and Martin Anderson were competing at league level for the first time.

Captain Carol Slater partnered Anderson as first pair.

They found themselves up against a junior pairing in the first round rubbers but were able to contain the hard hitting and top spin of their opponents to prevail for the loss of only three games 6-1, 6-2.

Julie Phillips partnered Armstrong as second pair and they were up against an established brace of opponents.

Although they managed to play well in the first set, losing only 6-4, they lost their way in the second set and went down 6-0.

In the reverse rubbers, Slater and Anderson took the first set easily 6-1 before their opponents rallied with some good shots to win 6-2 and level the match. In the deciding third set tie break the Oswestry pair were dominant and won it 10-7.

Phillips and Armstrong played well in their second rubber, but were edged out 7-5, 6-4.

With the fixture tied at two rubbers each, Drayton took the honours on sets won.

Eventful weekend for Power

A 100MPH crash, three race wins, and the fastest lap of the weekend provided a spectacularly eventful meeting for Mid Wales racing driver Ben Power at the Croft circuit in North Yorkshire.

Power, from Guilsfield, near Welshpool, remains among the contenders for the National Legends Car championship, as the season heads towards its climax.

The 23-year-old started in impressive fashion, winning both heats on Saturday, before an incident-packed final, in which he wove through the pack to finish seventh – clocking the fastest lap of the weekend on the way, and earning his first overall points win for the day.

On Sunday, he avoided several further accidents to finish fifth in race one. He was challenging for third place in race two, when Paul Simmons lost his steering, sending Power off the track at 100mph, and into the barrier.

The Guttercrest team managed to repair the car, and Power won the final race by two seconds from John Patterson, a front-runner in the Scottish championship, and a former touring car driver.

"It was certainly an eventful weekend, and overall a very good one for us," said Power.

"It means we still have a possible chance of winning the championship, which would be a fantastic achievement."

Current top five standings: 1 John Mickel 5910, 2 Dean Brace 5910, 3 Ben Power 5365, 4 Guy Fastres 5165, 5 James Holman 5145.

The series continues at Pembrey, near Llanelli in South Wales with another two-day meeting on October 19-20.

Last season was the best ever for the Welshpool and Oswestry-based Guttercrest team. Power recorded his first race wins in Legends Cars, and for a while he was second in the championship behind long-time leader and now champion Lawrence Davey, from East Sussex.

Earlier this year, he won a live televised race at Mallory Park circuit in Leicestershire.

The UK Legends series visits tracks around the UK, including famous circuits such as Brands Hatch. It features top drivers from around the UK and the continent.

Guttercrest Racing runs a Ford Coupe 1934 replica, with a 1250cc Yamaha motorcycle engine.

Ellesmere's Vase hopes are ended

ELLESMERE found near neighbours Shawbury United too strong as recent signing Connor Courtney struck twice to end their FA Vase hopes.

Courtney, a former Shrewsbury Town apprentice, marked only his second start for the Wem-based club with a quality brace as Shawbury cruised through the second qualifying round tie 3-0.

As well as a place in the next round, the victory also earned Shawbury £750 in prize money.

It was a sixth straight win in all competitions for Shawbury and Shawbury boss Dave Richards said: "It was a pleasing win and quite comfortable. Connor Courtney has started great for us and I'm pleased that he got a couple of goals against Ellesmere as he's another goal threat.

"He's got great delivery, plenty of enthusiasm and he's another good signing for us."

Ellesmere head to Wednesfield in the West Midland League premier division on Saturday.

Four Crosses hit six – but it only earns them a point

FOUR CROSSES hit Builth Wells for six – but still couldn't shake off their hosts in a remarkable 6-6 draw in the Spar Mid Wales division one.

Both defences creaked as Four Crosses led 3-1 at half-time before the visitors were themselves rattled by a four goal blast to trail 5-3 in the second period.

Undaunted, they clawed their way back to lead 6-5 before being denied by a last minute leveller to round off a 12-goal thriller.

Owain Wilcox scored twice for Four Crosses on a topsy turvy afternoon, with Andrew Webb, Richie Harris, Gareth Jones and Dylan Ellis also on target.

LLANFAIR UNITED suffered their first loss of the season when being edged out 2-1 at Carno, who are now one of only two unbeaten sides in the league.

Dan Goodman and Jordan Jones had Carno 2-0 up at half time before Chris Gethin pulled one back after the break to set up a tight finish.

Defeats

Leaders **BERRIEW** also fell to a first defeat when going down 2-0 at home to second placed Aberaeron who grabbed a goal in each half through Robbie Evans and Rhodri Edwards.

WELSHPOOL TOWN gained a welcome win when prevailing 2-1 at rock bottom Dolgellau courtesy of first half goals from Harry Wilkinson and Rob Cookson, before Joe Evans gave the lowly hosts hope with a reply in the second period.

Third bottom **DYFFRYN BANW** earned a creditable 2-2 draw at Bow Street while **WATERLOO ROVERS** suffered back-to back defeats at Llandrindod Wells when being downed 4-0.

MONTGOMERY'S woes continued as they suffered their fifth defeat of the season when going down 3-1 at Tywyn Bryncrug.

Second placed Presteigne maintained their early challenge in division two with a 3-0 home win courtesy of goals from Luke Sutton, Callum Matthews and Christian Roberts.

Kerry succumbed 4-2 at home to Rhosgoch, and Abermule were beaten 3-1 by leaders Knighton Town.

Pool sunk at Flint by try in 12th minute of injury time

WELSHPOOL are still looking for their first win of the season in the Swalec League division three (north) after suffering a heartbreaking last-gasp 26-25 loss at Flint.

The Maesydre side had led throughout but were pipped in the last play of the game as the Deesiders went over for a converted try with the referee playing 12 minutes of injury time.

It was tough on Pool who had led 10-0 at half-time, and 22-7, before seeing the win slip through their grasp as Flint – who brought on some strong forwards from their bench – finished the game strongly to again prove a bogey team for the Mid Wales side.

RUGBY
by John Bridgwater

The visitors – with man of the match Andrew Thomas impressing in his switch from centre to full-back – were in charge in the first half, and led 10-0 with a try from hooker Ben Aldiss converted by Daley Jones, who also kicked a penalty.

Aldiss then went over for his second touchdown after the interval and, although Flint pulled back a converted try, Pool restored the advantage when flanker Joe Stranks crossed, converted by Jones.

Sin-binned

However, the turning point came when Flint were awarded a penalty try for a high tackle which saw centre Dave Jones sin-binned, and the hosts kicked the conversion to trail 22-14.

Another unconverted try reduced the arrears further but a drop goal from Daley Jones appeared to give Pool some breathing space at 25-19 up.

However, with 12 minutes of stoppage time played, Flint found a way through to score their fourth try, which was converted to give them a dramatic win.

Lying ninth in the table, they will be out to bounce back on Saturday but points will be hard-earned at home to Harlech who have started the season well with two wins. Winger Rhys Jones is out with a shoulder injury.

WELSHPOOL II travelled to Llandudno and, despite being under-strength, produced a battling display before going down 40-22.

There were tries for Leyton Beddoe, Rob Picken and debutant Chris Proctor, who also added two conversions and a penalty.

Welshpool Youth lost 25-0 to Shotton Steel Youth.

COBRA slipped to second bottom in division one (north) after being well beaten 34-3 at Bala – their second defeat of the season.

Having defeated Bala in the North Wales Cup final last season, the Meifod side were unable repeat the feat with their hosts taking charge with four tries before the break.

Although improving in an even second period, the damage had been done. A fifth try in the closing moments made the scoreline more emphatic.

COBRA would point to the fact they had nine players missing, seven injured including skipper Aled Davies with a suspected broken hand.

They scored the first points last week when scrum-half Alwyn Williams kicked a penalty, but Bala stormed back with four touchdowns.

COBRA will be hoping to have some of their missing personnel back for Saturday's home clash with Nant Conwy as they look to lift themselves away from the lower regions of the table.

COBRA slide to heavy defeat as first half slip costly

COBRA spin the ball back across the line after winning a scrum at Bala in the division one (north) defeat

Time for a breather – the COBRA forwards wait to contest a line-out during the heavy defeat at Bala

Player crisis sees Saints well beaten

ST MARTINS are still searching for their first win of the season after crashing 5-0 at Bartestree in the West Midlands League division one.

Defeat keeps them second from bottom, with just two points from seven outings, and facing a must-win clash at fellow strugglers Wolverhampton United on Saturday.

Boss Ryan Butcher thought he had his strongest side of the season, but the withdrawal of several players on the morning of the game forced him to make major changes.

Even so, the Saints more than matched their Herefordshire hosts in a goalless first half and went close when Butcher headed against the bar.

But lack of fitness of the patched up side was evident in the second half as Bartestree took charge, making the breakthrough when the visitors failed to clear, before scoring four more goals.

GOLF RETURNS

LLANYMYNECH

September Stableford – Div 1: 1 Allen Lewis 40pts, 2 Ed Roberts 39pts, 3 Paul Whale 39pts; Div 2: 1 John Turner 43pts, 2 John Watkiss 40pts, 3 Ian Grivell 40pts; Div 3: 1 Colin Jones 40pts, 2 Alun Lloyd 36pts, 3 Neil Brydon 36pts

Ladies Three ball AM/AM Open: 1 Sharon Healey, Sheila Goulbourne & Sue Maguire 82pts, 2 Ann Garbett, Helen Whiting & Carol Chalmely 81pts, 3 Tricia Scadeng, L Forsyth & M Scott 81pts, 4 S Fairnington, J Carr & C Downing 73pts.

WELSHPOOL

Turkey Trail: 1 Darren Williams 45pts, 2 N S Wells 39pts, 3 Ken Stephens 38pts, 4 Richard Templeton 38pts.

Turkey Trail Medal: 1 Jon Gamble 64, 2 Roger Davies 64, 3 K O Evans 65, 4 Justin Williams 66.

Texas Scramble: 1 Pete Brooks, Dave Pretty, Oliver Heighway, Chris Proctor 56, 2 Jon Gamble, Dave Rowlands, Dave Jones, Mark Lloyd 56.6, 3 Paul Butterworth, Steve Morris, Charlie Emberton, Mick Curley 58

Ultimates in storming win

ON-SONG Oswestry Ultimates under-11s notched another win with a 2-1 home verdict at Saha Storm.

After a goalless first half, they continued to have most of the possession and eventually took the lead with a terrific goal from player of the match Jay Stewart.

Robbie Bateman doubled the advantage after link-up play with George Lloyd before Saha pulled one back.

Oswestry's lesson in defeat

OSWESTRY found high flying Liverpool Collegiate too hot to handle as they crashed to a 69-7 defeat in the South Lancs Cheshire Two, ***writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.***

The Eagles travelled to Liverpool looking to stop the leaders in their tracks, but their hosts had different ideas and were 25-0 ahead after just 16 minutes.

For the next 20 minutes, the committed Eagles held Liverpool and produced some very good rugby, Nick Howland scoring a try converted by Dan Williams.

The second half, however, showed the Liverpool team's class and they continued to score tries with good running rugby.

The visitors, however, played with their heads up and plenty of heart in a learning experience and bid to bounce back when they host Dukenfield on Saturday (3pm).

OSWESTRY III edged out Crewe and Nantwich IV 8-7 despite an accidental collision leaving two of their players needing hospital treatment.

With fly-half Harri Styles having a fine game, the Eagles scored twice via his runs with Jamie Ellis slotting over a penalty before he picked up a loose ball and crashed over to give his side an 8-0 lead.

The game was then stopped for 40 minutes when Ellis and Joel Wilson failed to tackle a Crewe runner and butted each other, leaving both men dazed.

Crewe took the game to Oswestry on the restart and scored a converted try but crucially missed a penalty.

Oswestry defended well in the second half, with Ieaun Ellis excellent at full-back and Jonny Longbow showing up well at scrum-half as they clinched their first win of the season.

Buoyed by the victory, they welcome Manchester III on Saturday while the second team, who had a week off, return to duty at Linley II.

PLACINGS

Spar Mid Wales League

Division one: Berriew 0, Aberaeron 2; Bow Street 2, Dyffryn Banw 2; Builth Wells 6, Four Crosses 6; Carno 2, Llanfair Utd 1; Dolgellau 1, Welshpool 2; Llandrindod Wells 4, Waterloo 0; Tywyn Bryncrug 3, Montgomery 1.

Division two: Abermule 1, Knighton 3; Kerry 2, Rhosgoch 4; Machynlleth 3, Talgarth 2; Newbridge-on-Wye 3, Hay St Mary's 4; Presteigne 3, Bont 0.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Agg	Pts
Berriew	6	6	0	30	4	26	18
Aberaeron	6	4	1	17	5	12	13
L'rindod Wells	4	4	0	31	2	29	12
Carno	4	4	0	12	1	11	12
Llanfair Utd	4	3	0	15	2	13	10
Bow Street	5	3	2	7	7	0	9
Four Crosses	5	2	1	11	12	-1	8
Waterloo	6	1	1	9	10	-1	7
Montgomery	7	2	4	6	27	-21	7
Tywyn/Bryncrug	4	2	2	10	10	0	6
Builth Wells	6	2	4	7	18	-11	6
Llansanttffraid	7	1	5	8	20	-12	4
Welshpool	7	1	5	11	24	-13	4
Dyffryn Banw	5	0	4	6	19	-13	1
Aber Uni	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dolgellau	6	0	6	4	23	-19	0

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Agg	Pts
Knighton	4	1	0	7	5	2	6
Presteigne	3	1	0	8	5	3	5
Hay St Marys	3	1	1	8	6	2	4
Abermule	3	1	1	2	3	-1	4
Kerry	3	0	0	9	9	0	3
Rhosgoch	2	1	1	7	7	0	3
Bont	3	0	0	5	5	0	3
Machynlleth	2	1	1	3	4	-1	3
Newbridge	3	0	1	2	3	-1	2
Talgarth	2	0	1	1	5	-4	1

Midland Floodlit Youth League

PREMIER DIVISION NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romulus	6	3	2	1	22	14	11
Hinckley United	4	3	1	0	18	5	10
Ellesmere Rngrs	5	3	1	1	10	8	10
Newcastle Town	6	2	2	2	8	14	8
Hednesford Town	5	2	1	2	9	10	7
Rugby Town	4	2	0	2	9	6	6
AFC Wulfrunians	5	2	0	3	10	14	6
B'mere St Mchls	5	1	1	3	8	14	4
AFC Telford Utd	4	1	0	3	5	8	3
Greenhill	4	1	0	3	4	10	3

SPORT

Guils hold leaders as defence is Rock solid

GUILSFIELD became the first side to take points off Cymru Alliance leaders Cefn Druids when earning a battling goalless draw at the Rock.

Defensive frailties have been a problem for new boss Matt Burton this term, but the Guils have now kept two clean sheets, with last Saturday's display their best of the season.

Chances were few and far between, with the visitors defending solidly, particularly in the second half as the Ancients pushed forward.

James O'Reilly had their best chance when missing the target with a free header from a corner.

Both sides finished with 10 men, Nathan Leonard sent off for the Guils and Gareth Edwards for the Druids – both for foul and abusive language.

Guilsfield are now three games unbeaten, up to sixth in the table and looking to maintain the momentum at home to Flint Town United on Saturday.

LLANRHAEADR, still struggling with players missing, are languishing at the foot of the table after succumbing 4-0 at home to Caersws.

Mark Griffiths netted twice inside the first five minutes as the Bluebirds made a flying start, his opener after a clearance rebounded into his path off a defender.

The front runner quickly added his second when another clearance, this time from stand-in keeper Connor Lee, struck Joe Vaughan and rolled towards goal.

Tom Evans had the ball in the net at the other end but his effort was ruled out for offside, but it was Caersws who remained in the ascendancy.

Adam Jenkins continued his good scoring form with his eighth goal of the season seven minutes into the second half, before Griffiths completed his hat-trick.

George Hughes was sent off late on for dissent, and will miss Saturday's trip to Llandudno.

PLACINGS

Huws Gray Alliance

	P	W	L	F	Ag	Gd	Pts
Cefn Druids	8	7	0	23	3	20	22
Caernarfon Town	8	7	0	28	10	18	22
Conwy Borough	8	6	1	22	4	18	19
Caersws	8	5	2	22	12	10	16
Flint Town United	8	4	4	13	13	0	12
Guilsfield	8	3	3	13	13	0	11
Holyhead Hotspur	7	3	3	12	14	-2	10
Rhayader Town	8	3	4	9	17	-8	10
Llandudno	7	2	2	15	11	4	9
Porthmadog	7	3	4	13	16	-3	9
Llanidloes Town	8	2	5	11	15	-4	7
Penycae	8	2	5	14	23	-9	7
Penrhyncoch	7	1	3	7	12	-5	6
Rhydymwyn	8	2	6	6	24	-18	6
Buckley Town	8	0	3	11	18	-7	5
Llanrhaeadr YM	8	1	6	8	22	-14	4

Saturday's fixtures: Caersws v Buckley Town, Guilsfield v Flint, Holyhead v Conwy Borough, Llandudno v Llanrhaeadr, Llanidloes Town v Porthmadog, Penrhyncoch v Cefn Druids, Penycae v Rhayader Town, Rhydymwyn v Caernarfon Town.

Eight wins straight sees Oswestry march on

FC Oswestry Town match-winner Graham Dyke

HIGH-FLYING FC Oswestry Town stretched their winning start to eight games in the Mercian Regional League division one with a 2-1 success at Hopesgate, ***writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.***

The leaders started sharply and opened the scoring when the prolific Ben Williams hit a low shot which nestled in the bottom right corner.

Gary Windsor was then denied by the home keeper who also made smart saves from Graham Dyke, Adam Jones and Tom Stedman, but Town were stunned by a leveller against the run of play.

The second half started in a similar fashion to the first with the home keeper called into action to prevent goal chances from Dyke, Williams and Graeme Kirkham.

The vital breakthrough nearly came midway through the half when Dyke's 25-yard free-kick was again well saved by the home keeper but, with just five minutes left, Tom Stedman slid the ball through to Dyke to rattle the ball home from the edge of the box.

Oswestry travel to Wrockwardine Wood reserves on Saturday (3pm) looking to continue their winning ways.

Two goals from top scorer Dave Hartshorn and one from sub Todd Roberts gave **OSWESTRY VILLA** a 3-0 win at home to bottom club Oakengates Rangers in their first game at Gatacre.

Boss Graeme Sutton, whose side are unbeaten since taking charge, was delighted with the performance as they head to Meole Brace on Saturday.

"I'm pleased with the team effort today, a clean sheet and good team goals," he said.

"It was nice to play at our home ground and it"s where we need to take three points every week.

"I thought Adam Jones was brilliant again today, the last two or three weeks he has come on loads and has been the Villa's best player.

"Having said that the whole back four played well, the midfield looked tighter and Dave Hartshorn just can't stop scoring which for me proves why we will be in the mix come the end of the season."

The more the game went on the more the Villa took control, with Emlyn Williams linking with Jordan Gerrard and the ball found its way to Hartshorn who coolly slipped past two defenders and lifted the ball over the keeper to give his side an interval lead.

Steve Tomkins headed off the line in the second half, before Hartshorn made it two when dancing round the Oakengates defence before sub Todd Roberts sealed the win when skipping past three players and finishing well.

OSWESTRY VILLA RES continue to struggle in division two, crashing 12-2 at Shrewsbury United Reserves to languish in the lower reaches of the table.

Dwyer nets on debut as Morda ease to home win

A BRACE from Ian Heathcock and a debut goal from substitute Adam Dwyer helped Morda United get back to winning ways in the Mercian Regional League premier division with a comfortable 3-1 home victory over Shifnal 97.

Morda, who introduced new goalkeeper Tony Davies, were in control of this game from the start and went ahead on 11 minutes when the persistent Heathcock capitalised on hesitation in the visiting defence to fire home neatly.

Davies was given little opportunity to show his skills in goal with the visitors struggling to find a way past a solid Morda back four.

Scott Graham went close to increasing the home lead with a long shot while Paul Bache, Heathcock and Paul Hughes all had efforts blocked.

The Morda midfield remained in control with Tom Coulson and Sam Litchfield winning most challenges and Graham orchestrating some good attacking moves.

Woodwork

Morda were on the attack from the start of the second half with Bache hitting the woodwork and Hughes having a shot saved.

It was Hughes who created Morda's second goal when beating his man before setting up Heathcock to double his tally with a tap in.

Shifnal began to throw more men forward, before pulling a goal back after a free kick had been flicked on.

This spurred Morda back into action with substitutes Adam Dwyer and Gareth Lewis looking dangerous in attack, and the duo combined to extend the home lead with the alert Dwyer hitting home a debut goal.

Morda ended the game on top but failed to find the net again with Graham firing over, Gareth Lewis and Litchfield having shots blocked before Bache missed from close range after good work by Lewis.

On Saturday Craig Rogers' men have their toughest challenge of the season when they travel to Dawley to face the only unbeaten side in the league, Telford Juniors.

Quickfire double sees TNS home and dry at Park Hall

The New Saints 2 Bangor City 0

TWO goals in as many first half minutes proved enough to keep The New Saints hard on the heels of the Welsh Premier leaders Airbus UK Broughton with victory at Park Hall.

The defending champions were well worth their fourth victory of the season, with Mike Wilde and Aeron Edwards both on target in quick succession to help lift their side up to second in the table on goal difference.

After the double blow, Bangor battled hard to remain in the hunt, but it was the Saints who had the better chances to have increased the margin only to be denied by some wasteful finishing, stout defending and solid keeping from Lee Idzi.

FOOTBALL
by John Bridgwater

Director of football Craig Harrison admitted it was a job well done as he looks ahead to two vital games against rival early contenders Carmarthen Town and Airbus UK in the coming weeks.

"We knew Bangor would come here and give it a good go, they have enthusiastic players who are proud to play for their club," he said.

"It was up to us to break them down, and getting the two goals in the first half was key for us and it should really have been more at the end.

"But it's another good three points. After losing to Prestatyn and throwing away points in our draw at Aberystwyth, we've been playing catch-up but we've shown that if we're on our game then we can beat any team in the league."

TNS were soon on the front foot, and should have taken the lead inside the first minute when Sam Finley latched on to a poor clearance from keeper Idzi before breaking through and squaring to Edwards who sliced his shot wide.

Mike Wilde had a 20-yard strike comfortably held by Idzi, while Finley's angled shot from the right brought a routine save from the keeper.

However, two goals in as many minutes put the Saints in full charge, with the defending champions taking the lead on 17 minutes when Fraughan was released down the right before crossing for Wilde to nod in at the far post

And two minutes later they doubled the lead in fine style as Edwards brought the ball down just outside before smashing his angled shot into the net via Idzi's outstretched hands.

Bangor had few clear-cut chances, although they went close when Sion Edwards' free-kick was parried low down by keeper Paul Harrison before eventually being cleared.

TNS continued to hold the upper hand after the break, but were unable to extend their lead despite their opportunities.

Idzi saved at feet of advancing Chris Jones after Edwards had threaded a ball through the defence, while the hosts should have added a third on 71 minutes when sub Alex Darlington played a one-two with Jones on the edge of the box but, through on goal, was denied by Idzi's outstretched leg

Idzi made further saves to deny Chris Jones and Edwards, while at the other end Les Davies' near post header from Jamie Petrie's left wing cross was comfortably saved by Harrison.

Wilde then saw his shot turned onto the post, before Seargeant's late curling free kick was parried by Idzi diving to his left.

Ex tablers rolled over by Ellesmere

Hard lines – Ellesmere 41 Club chairman Nigel Williams (right) commiserates with Oswestry 41 Club president Alan Cockram after the bowling clash.

THE battle of the ex tabler bowling giants ended in humiliating defeat for Oswestry last Friday.

Ellesmere ex tablers took Oswestry to the cleaners by thrashing them 6-0 in the 41 Club clash, held at Whittington Bowling Club.

Graciously, Ellesmere 41 Club Chairman Nigel Williams said at an end of match dinner in Ye Olde Boot Inn, the annual get together was more about fellowship than competition and thanked Oswestry 41 Club for a 'great evening.'

Ellesmere Youth draw at leaders

IN their latest game in The Midland Youth League Premier North, Ellesmere picked up a useful point on the road when drawing 2-2 at top of the table Romulus.

It could and should have been so much better for the newly promoted visitors, however, after surging into a 2-0 interval lead before succumbing to a second-half revival from the hosts.

Ed Owen fired Rangers into a ninth minute lead with a powerful drive from 25 yards and Ellesmere were on course for a third straight away win in the top flight when Paddy Townsend headed in a Mike O'Reilly centre in the 18th minute.

However, lapses in concentration and an improvement by the home team after the break saw the points shared with both team having clear cut chances in the final 20 minutes to snatch a victory, Josh Brown and Will Twyford having the best for Rangers.

"Prior to the game I would have taken a point, but after leading comfortably at the break it is definitely two points dropped," said manager Dan Sevens.

"We are showing excellent quality in possession but are making individual mistakes through lack of concentration which at this level are being punished severely.

"Overall, though, we have made a very positive start in the league with 10 points from the first five games and I would have gladly taken that at the start of the season."

Ellesmere now host Worcester City tonight (Thursday) in The FA Youth Cup first qualifying round (7.45).

Saints U19s celebrating six of best

THE New Saints youngsters had mixed fortunes in their latest round of matches.

The under-19s thrashed Newtown 6-1 thanks to goals from Ryan Kershaw, Ben Richards, Taylor James, Harvey Holmes and a brace from Liam Walker.

Leighton Tierney and Lewis Wenton were on the mark as TNS under-16s beat Wolves 2-1.

Making it a hat-trick of wins, the Saints under-15s edged out Gap Connahs Quay 3-2 with James Arrowsmith scoring twice, Ayman Sekkoiti getting the other.

Connahs Quay Nomads beat TNS under 12s by six goals to four despite a superb hat-trick by Tai Jones, with Issac Dawson also on the mark.

TNS under-11s lost 3-2 to Gap Connah's Quay despite replies from Ben Buley and Dion Williams.

Bishop nets Rhyn a point

A CONTROVERSIAL leveller from Chris Bishop earned Weston Rhyn a 1-1 draw Whitchurch Alport Reserves to maintain their creditable start to the Mercian Regional League premier division.

Rhyn had been trailing to a header at half time, but Alport were unable to capitalise on their possession.

And the visitors were back on terms late on when Bishop nipped in to head past the keeper, the ball being cleared but the linesman ruled it was over.

Rhyn head to Wellington Amateur reserves on Saturday out to maintain their good start to the season

Tigers roar to nine goals

A LACKLUSTRE display saw Oswestry Boys under-14s lose 2-1 to Prees Pumas.

Prees took a first half lead with a free-kick and added a second after the break with a fortuitous 40-yard lob on the break following a spell of home pressure.

Lewis Birch did pull back a late consolation for Oswestry, but defeat was a wake-up call for the 2013 league and cup champions.

Oswestry Boys Club under-16s drew 1-1 at Up & Comers Falcons, in a clash between the league's two unbeaten teams.

Oswestry struck first when a brilliantly whipped in free-kick was headed home by Tom Worswick.

Despite dominating, they were pegged back by a penalty and needed a good late save from keeper Joe Walker to earn a point. Man of the match was Callum Patterson.

Oswestry Tigers swept aside Whitchurch Alport juniors 9-0, with two early goals from Sam Wall putting them on course.

Max Thomas increased the margin and Kyle Dwyer made it four just before half-time. The goals continued in the second half as a Max Thomas double made it six.

Man of the match Seb Wilson and another one from Wall made it eight and Olly Evans capped a fine Tigers team performance by completing the scoring.

PLACINGS

Mercian Regional Football League

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	AGD	Pts
Oakengates Ath	7	5	1	21	9	16
Telford Juniors	5	4	0	17	3	14
FC Hodnet	7	4	2	10	9	1	13
Whitchurch Alp R	8	3	2	11	10	1	12
Weston Rhyn	7	3	2	15	13	2	11
Ketley Bank Utd	6	3	2	10	13	-3	10
Prees	6	3	3	10	10	0	9
Ketley Town	5	3	2	9	10	-1	9
Morda United	6	2	2	15	14	1	8
Church Stretton	6	2	2	12	12	0	8
Madeley Sports	7	2	4	7	11	-4	7
Bridgnorth T Res	8	1	4	10	15	-5	6
Wellington Ams R	6	1	3	10	15	-5	5
Allscott	7	0	3	6	11	-5	4
Shifnal United 97	7	1	5	7	15	-8	4

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	AGD	Pts
Oswestry Town	8	8	0	44	8	36	24
Childs Ercall	7	7	0	38	4	34	21
Bishops Castle T	7	6	1	33	6	27	18
Oswestry Villa	7	5	1	28	11	17	16
Clee Hill	7	4	1	20	10	10	14
Dawley Town	8	4	2	24	23	1	14
Rock Rovers FC	5	4	1	32	9	23	12
Hanwood Utd Res.	6	3	2	17	9	8	10
Meole Brace	7	2	5	10	49	-39	6
Wroxeter Rovers	3	1	0	8	5	3	5
Shawbury Utd R	7	1	5	9	22	-13	4
Brown Clee	6	1	5	12	23	-11	3
Wrock Wood Jnrs	7	1	6	11	34	-23	3
Shrewsbury Utd	8	1	7	16	48	-32	3
Hopesgate United	8	0	6	13	32	-19	2
Oakengates Rngrs	7	0	6	7	29	-22	1

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	AGD	Pts
AFC Broseley	8	7	0	48	9	39	22
Wrock Wood	7	5	0	33	10	23	17
Market D'ton Tgrs	8	5	2	33	17	16	16
Donnington S & S	7	5	2	32	20	12	15
Impact	6	4	0	31	8	23	14
AFC Wellington	7	4	2	45	14	31	13
Ludlow T Colts	7	3	2	32	16	16	11
Claverley	6	3	3	22	14	8	9
Shrewsbury Utd R.	7	2	5	14	35	-21	6
Spalaig Britannia	7	2	5	12	40	-28	6
Highley Miners W	6	1	3	15	20	-5	5
Oswestry Villa R	6	1	5	7	24	-17	3
Albrighton Juniors	6	0	5	10	29	-19	1
Denso	8	0	8	9	87	-78	0

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Guils boss confident things will get better

GUILSFIELD boss Matt Burton believes prospects are looking up for his side after becoming the first team to take points off Cymru Alliance high-fliers Cefn Druids.

After a mixed start, the Guils are three games unbeaten and up to sixth in following their 0-0 draw with the Ancients.

They now host Flint on Saturday, and Burton is looking for his side to maintain the upward momentum.

"We set our stall out to frustrate Cefn Druids last week, and the lads worked really hard," he said. "We had our chances to win, but also had a bit of luck, so a draw was a fair result.

"We're now three games unbeaten, and if we can beat Flint we can leapfrog them in the table. Although we've lost three games this season, two of those have been against two of the top teams, Conwy and Caernarfon."

Danny Barton, the league's top scorer, is set to return after it was feared he could be out for some time with a hamstring strain.

The striker was an unused substitute against the Druids last week, but is set for a start after what now appears to have been a trapped nerve in his upper leg.

One downside for Guilsfield last week was that Nathan Leonard was sent off in injury time for foul and abusive language in an exchange with a Druids player who was also red carded.

LLANRHAEADR, having slipped to the foot of the table after succumbing 4-0 at home to Caersws last week, bid to revive their fortunes in Saturday's trip to Llandudno.

Their cause is not helped by the absence of George Hughes who is suspended after being sent off late on for dissent against the Bluebirds. Mark Griffiths faces fitness check on knee.

Ifton bowls just survive

IFTON survived in the Shropshire Premier Bowls League by the skin of their teeth despite losing 9-5 (223-204) at Castlefields on a tense last night of the season.

The St Martins side went into the last game just one point above rock bottom Archibald Worthington but avoided the end of season relegation play-offs as their basement rivals slumped 12-2 at Sir John Bayley.

Moreton Hall's lacrosse teams were both crowned champions at the prestigious Welsh Rally. The first team (pictured) went unbeaten throughout the tournament, while the second team were crowned winners for the sixth time in the last seven years.

Pool chase elusive win

WELSHPOOL's rugby players chase their first win of the season in the Swalec League division three (north) when they host in-form Harlech on Saturday.

The Maesydre side will need to pick themselves up after suffering a heartbreaking last-gasp 26-25 loss at Flint who scored the winning points 12 minutes into injury time.

It was tough on Pool who had led 10-0 at half time, and 22-7, before seeing the points slip through their grasp.

Lying ninth in the table, they will be out to bounce back on Saturday but points will be hard-earned at home to Harlech who have started the season well with two wins. Winger Rhys Jones is out with a shoulder injury, but the hosts hope to have a couple of players back.

COBRA also bid to hit back at home to Nant Conwy after slipping to second bottom in division one (north) after being well beaten 34-3 at Bala - their second defeat of the season.

The Meifod side had nine players missing, seven injured including skipper Aled Davies with a suspected broken hand, but hope to bolster their ranks this weekend.

Beaten 69-7 at high flying Liverpool Collegiate last week, OSWESTRY will be looking to get points on the board when they welcome Duckenfield on Saturday in the South Lancs Cheshire Two.

ATHERTON FAMILY ON TOP OF WORLD

by John Bridgwater

HIGH-RIDING Rachel Atherton showed her champion style after powering to World Cup Series glory in Austria – and brother Gee finished runner-up to make it a remarkable family double.

It was a tense finale, with Llanrhaeadr ace Rachel finishing second in the sixth and final round of the World Cup in Leogang – but that was enough to take overall victory in the women's elite in the 2013 downhill biking series.

Gee was overall runner-up in the men's elite despite finishing fourth while the duo's GT Factory Racing team emerged the fastest in a season of dramatic racing.

Rachel and Gee started the season with a bang, with double firsts at Fort William and Val di Sole an amazing boost, while Marc Beaumont (Craven Arms) earned some important points for the team, in particular at Fort William and Mont St Anne.

The team's mounting successes were marred by junior rider Taylor Vernon's back injury before his first World Cup season had even got properly underway, which made the championship victory taste all the sweeter.

Qualifying

Rachel started the weekend's racing with 160 point margin over close rival Emmeline Ragot, knowing that any top 15 place would secure her the overall title. But the Llanrhaeadr rider made it clear from the start that this was to be no coast down the hill as she wanted to finish in style.

She was 0.39 seconds up on Ragot on split One, but lost a fraction of time in the technical section to go 0.2 seconds back by split Two and just couldn't pull it back. She crossed the line at three minutes 53.36 seconds, just 0.5 seconds behind Ragot, which was enough for second place on the day and the Series win overall.

"I'm over the moon to take the overall victory, especially as Emmeline has been getting closer to me every round," said Rachel. "She totally deserved the win here today. There's no way that I was holding back, I wanted to win."

In the men's race Gee had started the weekend 17 points clear of Stevie Smith, but the Canadian's qualifying victory had put him into the lead by a scant three points.

Gee's eventual time of 3.26.817 was only enough for fourth place, but earned him second overall in the series.

The Atherton's combined efforts for the season, along with those of Beaumont, took their GT Factory Racing team into first place in the overall team's race with Lapierre in second.

And the winner is – Rachel Atherton was crowned UCI MTB World Cup champion after the final round in Austria

Trophy testers await the local clubs

THE FAW Trophy takes centre stage on Saturday with local clubs looking to have a run in the competition specifically for lower league clubs.

Buoyed by a welcome win in the Spar Mid Wales League division one last week, WELSHPOOL TOWN will be aiming to progress when they host Talgarth in the first round.

High flying BERRIEW bid to bounce back from their first defeat of the season but face a tricky Trophy trip to Presteigne while FOUR CROSSES, who were involved in a remarkable 6-6 draw at Builth Wells last week, are at home to Bow Street.

Elsewhere, MONTGOMERY look for a timely boost when they head to Barmouth while DYFFRYN BANW entertain LLANFYLLIN.

In the Spar Mid Wales League, WATERLOO ROVERS face a clash at new boys LLANFAIR UNITED in the first division with both looking to bounce back from defeats last week.

Lowly LLANSANTFFRAID VILLAGE, with just one win this season, also hope for a timely boost when they head to basement side Dolgellau.

Elsewhere, something has got to give when Carno visit Aberaeron in a clash between the only two remaining unbeaten sides in the league.

Big games coming up in league for Saints

THE New Saints are facing back-to-back showdowns against two of their main Welsh Premier rivals – and head coach Carl Darlington insists: "We're more than ready for the challenge."

First up, the defending champions host one of their bogey sides, third placed Carmarthen Town, on Saturday, before heading to early high-fliers Airbus UK the following week.

"These are the teams you want to beat as they are around you in the table," said Darlington.

"After dropping points earlier in the season, we're now second.

"Carmarthen have caused us problems in the past but we're more than ready for the challenge and looking forward to the game."

Victories

The West Wales sides have produced some fine displays at Park Hall in the past to come away with the points. In recent times, they have won in the league and Welsh Cup, while last season they beat Saints on penalties to lift the League Cup.

But Darlington believes TNS – who have no injuries to report – can go into the clash in fine fettle after their 2-0 win against Bangor City,

"We scored two good goals through Mike Wilde and Aeron Edwards with some great movement form Ryan Fraughan," he said.

"We felt we were in control, we had our chances and should have scored a few more, but could not put the game to bed.

"We need to be more ruthless but it was still a good three points."

Although Carmarthen have pulled off victories over TNS in recent seasons, Park Hall has not always proved a happy hunting ground where they have crashed 8-0 and 7-0 in the past.

Ladies lose

NEWLYpromoted Oswestry Ladies suffered their first loss in the Cheshire Womens League division two after going down 2-0 at home to Wilmslow. They had opened their campaign with a 3-1 verdict at Chester Ladies.

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